

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What do you use: paper, plastic, or reusable bags?

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### Record Deficit

The U.S. government's budget deficit will surge past a half-trillion dollars next year, according to new estimates.

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### New Attack

Suicide bombers struck Shiite pilgrims in Iraq, killing at least 57 people.

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DEQ sees little response to green campaign. **PAGE 2**  
Pipe installations to cause four-hour water outage. **PAGE 3**

# Fitial lifts CUC debt cap

## EO allows CUC to borrow above \$500,000 limit

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be able to borrow an unlimited amount of money without first obtaining legislative approval under a new order signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.



Fitial

See FITIAL on Page 4

## FTC: Kids target of \$1.6B in food ads

By KEVIN FREKING  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's largest food and beverage companies spent about \$1.6 billion in 2006 marketing their products—especially car-

See FTC on Page 4



AP  
Max Robinson, 5, prepares to eat an Oreo cookie in Palo Alto, Calif., Monday, July 28, 2008.



### INSTANT LAKE

A motorist braves the flooded street beside JG Sablan on Middle Road, Garapan after a brief rain shower yesterday afternoon. This area suffers from flooding due to runoff and drainage problems.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Hocog

## Hocog warns of move to dissolve CDA

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Rep. Victor Hocog (I-Rota) warned the Commonwealth Development Authority's board Tuesday that a new move might be afoot within the government to dissolve the agency.

See HOCOG on Page 4

## 3 masked men rob poker arcade

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three masked men staged an armed

robbery at a poker arcade in Koblerville early Friday morning, the Department of Public Safety said yesterday.

See 3 MASKED on Page 4

**I believe that there is a course of direction that will be forthcoming and I have advised the administration that it is not the right direction.**

—Rep. Victor Hocog (I-Rota)



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## Final work today on old Capital Hill reservoir

### Pipe installations will cause four-hour water outage

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A contractor will conduct the last installation of new pipelines today, Wednesday, in the ongoing rehabilitation of the one million-gallon Capital Hill reservoir that was built in the 1950s.

The target completion date for the Capital Hill Reservoir Rehabilitation Project is September 2008. The CNMI Water Task Force is administering the federally funded project at a cost of over \$200,000.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI Water Task Force said that Maeda Pacific Corp.'s installation of new pipelines would cause a water outage today.

CUC water division manager Mariano Iglecias told *Saipan Tribune* that the water outage would affect residents and businesses in Chalan Galaide, Capital Hill, Wireless Ridge, Talafofo, Tapochau, Agag, and I Denni from 9am to 1pm.

Iglecias said the normal water hours supply in those areas is from 6am to 1pm. They are going to shut down the reservoir at 9am. As a result, water supply hours for those areas will only be from 6am to 9am. Normal water services will resume the following day, Thursday.

"Once the required installation work is completed, it would enable greater flow into the reservoir and improve water quantity and quality," the manager said.

Iglecias said the installation

of new pipelines is going to be an eight-hour job.

"What we are doing is we are improving the water lines inside the reservoir so that we can control and get better water quality," he said.

The manager said the reservoir was built in the 1950s so it is better to conduct extensive renovations on it to improve the water service.

He said the original contract was worth \$170,000 but, with all the additional work, it is now reaching a little over \$200,000.

Majority of the funds came from the Housing Urban Development Block Grant. The Department of the Interior co-funded the project.

Iglecias said the installation of new pipelines is part of a sequence of work and that in fact it is already the third announcement for water outages in those areas.

"Initially, what we did to lessen the impact on the customers was to work on replacing the valves, [then] adding in new pipes. So this is the last of the new piping installation work," he said.

He said, though, that the bulk of the work actually involves cleaning and rehabilitating the tank and that is yet to come.

He said the project's biggest challenge is sealing the tank and bringing it to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

The CNMI Task Force and CUC handed the contractor the notice to proceed with the project in April 2008.

## Ex-govs, lt. gov could lose insurance coverage

By **AGNES E. DONATO**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth's former governors and lieutenant governors are on the brink of losing their insurance coverage because the central government has not remitted money to fund the special annuity program.

NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Juan T. Guerrero said its insurance providers have threatened to terminate the former officials' enrollment in the life and health insurance program if the CNMI government continues not to pay.

The Retirement Fund has already been unable to pay special annuities on July 15, 2008, be-

cause of the government's failure to fund the program. To date, the Fund still has not received any money for the special annuities; therefore, the former governors and lieutenant governors again will not receive their special annuity on July 31, 2008.

"The non-transmittal of monies from the government to fund special annuities is very alarming," Guerrero said in a letter to the Legislature. "Equally alarming is the threat of these special annuities' losing their insurance coverage for health and life. The Fund has been informed by Aetna Global and NetCare that special annuities' enrollment in their health and life insurance program, respectively, will be

terminated upon non-payment of insurance premiums for three pay periods."

A CNMI statute entitles every former governor or lieutenant governor to a special retirement annuity of 65 percent of the highest salary authorized by law for each of these positions.

The special benefits total about \$45,000 each quarter.

However, a governor or lieutenant governor who is entitled to any other retirement compensation from the CNMI government has to choose to receive either that compensation or the special annuity. Some governors and lieutenant governors have enough years of public service to qualify for regular pension benefits.

### SNAKE SIGHTING

Brown Tree Snake

program's Marcia Onni shows some photos and information about the brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*) to Carmela Merritt, Robert Atalig, Donna Del Rosario and Jovita Matias after the group called the hotline about seeing a snake at Merritt's house in Puerto Rico Monday. It was not immediately learned if the snake sighting was confirmed.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



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# Sharp 6.1 quake shakes Solomon Islands

**HONIARA, Solomon Islands (AP)**—A sharp, magnitude 6.1 earthquake shook the eastern Solomon Islands on Tuesday morning, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injury, emergency officials said.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported the quake occurred in the South Pacific ocean, some 83 miles (133 kilometers) from the town of Kira Kira in the eastern Solomons, at

a depth of 33 miles (53 kilometers) below the sea floor.

The temblor was centered 230 miles (370 kilometers) southeast of the capital, Honiara.

Hundreds of villagers on Makira, the nearest island to the quake's epicenter, were reported to have headed for higher ground, fearing a tsunami in the wake of the quake.

However, no tsunami came, government spokesman George Herming said

in Honiara—where the quake was also felt. Some 15,000 people live in hundreds of villages along the eastern side of Makira Island.

More than 50 people were killed and thousands lost their homes in April 2007 when a magnitude 8.1 quake hit the western Solomon Islands, sending waves crashing into coastal villages.

The Solomons comprise more than 200 islands with a population of about 552,000 people.

# Grimes and Schultz are named managing partners at law firm

A Hawaii-based law firm that's active in the Western Pacific has named two lawyers with extensive regional experience as new managing partners.

Carlsmith Ball LLP yesterday announced the promotions of Joanne Lo Grimes and Marcia K. Schultz as managing partners.

Grimes is based in Hawaii, but has broad experience in Guam, where she used to work for the firm. Schultz is based on Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. The firm also announced the promotion to managing partner of Honolulu-based Ann N.K. Motosue.

Grimes concentrates her practice in the area of fiduciary representation by serving as legal advisor to the Government of Guam Retirement Fund, and

representing private sector boards of trustees of profit and non-profit trusts. She is the vice president/president-elect for Hawaii Women Lawyers, the secretary and director for the Hawaii Justice Foundation, and has been with the firm since 1995.

Schultz has worked with a broad range of client industries, including hotels, golf courses, retailers, tour companies, restaurants, financial institutions and foreign companies. She is a member of the Employment Law Alliance, representing Guam and Saipan. She has been with the firm since 1989.

Carlsmith Ball LLP has office in Guam, Saipan, five offices in Hawaii and one in Los Angeles, California. (*Pacific Magazine*)



## FUN IN THE SUN

Tourists enjoy the afternoon swimming on the pool of Palms Resort Saipan hotel in San Roque.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## FTC

From Page 1

bonated drinks—to children, according to a Federal Trade Commission report.

Children are confronted with such a barrage of advertising for food and drink - much of it unhealthy - that the entertainment industry should take steps to tie popular TV and movie characters to more nutritional products, the FCC says.

The report, to be released Tuesday, stems from lawmakers' concern about growing obesity rates in children. It gives researchers new insight into how much companies are spending to attract youth to their products, and what venues the companies are using for their marketing. To come up with its estimate, the FTC used confidential financial data that it required the companies to turn over. An executive summary of the report was obtained by The Associated Press.

Overall, the spending was less than some previous estimates had indicated. Still, it represents a large pot of money that is being used to entice children to foods that are often unhealthy choices, said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, who had sought the study.

"This study confirms what I have been saying for years. Industry needs to step up to the plate and use their innovation and creativity to market healthy foods to our kids," Harkin said. "That \$1.6 billion could be used to attract our

kids to healthy snacks, tasty cereals, fruits and vegetables."

The commission studied spending directed at children ages 2-17. Spending on soda marketing came to \$492 million, with the vast majority of that spending directed toward adolescents. Restaurants reported spending close to \$294 million, which was divided about evenly between children and adolescents. For cereals, companies spent about \$237 million with the vast majority of that amount targeted to children under age 12.

The 44 companies reviewed spread their marketing across all segments of the media, the commission found. Television ads provide a theme that usually carried over to packaging and displays in stores, and to the Internet where entry of a code on the package allowed them to participate in games or contests with prizes.

For example, Superman Returns and Pirates of the Caribbean were prominently linked to many food products last year. Companies created limited edition snacks, cereals, waffles and candy based

on the movies. They offered prizes on the Internet to buyers of those products that ranged from video games to trips to Disney to a \$1 million reward for the capture of villain Lex Luther.

"The Internet—though far less costly than television—has become a major marketing tool of food companies that target children and adolescents, with more than two-thirds of the 44 companies reporting online, youth-directed activities," the commission report said.

The FTC made several recommendations as part of its report.

■ It said that media and entertainment companies should limit the licensing of characters to healthier foods and drinks. Also, it says media companies should limit ads placed on children's television program to healthier food and beverage products.

■ It encouraged schools to adopt meaningful nutrition standards for the foods that are sold there, and it recommended that companies cease all in-school promotion of products that don't meet such standards.

## 3 MASKED

From Page 1

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the perpetrators fled the scene with an undetermined amount of money. No one was reported injured.

Ogumoro said DPS received a call of an armed robbery incident at the High Roller Poker Game Room, located across Han Nam Market, on Friday at 1:42am.

Preliminary police investigation showed that three masked men, armed with a silver handgun and a machete, entered the High Roller Poker.

The suspects robbed an employee who, at the time, was doing collection from the poker machines.

A witness who chased the suspects told police that the getaway vehicle was a silver sedan with license plate ACC-798.

The suspects were described as light skinned, around 5'6" tall, and possibly

of Asian background, based on their language and accents.

Police said all three wore black masks, dark T-shirts and long blue jeans.

The establishment has a surveillance camera, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

On June 26, two men armed with a knife and machete robbed Joy Market

along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

Both suspects were clad in white cloth with black designs over their heads to conceal their face.

On March 21, a man staged a daylight robbery at Capitol Poker in Sadog Tasi. The suspect was arrested after a few days.

## HOCOG

From Page 1

Any plan to put an end to CDA would prove harmful to the government, Hocog said in public comments during the board's monthly meeting. Yet he believes the agency could see an executive order by Gov. Benigno Fitial or some other such effort in the near future with that aim.

"The thing that I'm worried about is a forthcoming E.O. for CDA," Hocog said. "That also is going to be very det-

rimonial to the present course of direction CDA is taking."

Hocog's warning comes after persistent rumors surfaced earlier this year that CDA would face a fate similar to that of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, according to CDA board chair Pedro Itibus. CPA's board of directors resigned at the urging of the Fitial administration in June. The governor later issued an executive order declaring a "state of emergency" at CPA and placing it, along with the local airport, under his control.

Responding to Hocog's word of caution, Itibus asked him directly, "Are you saying there is a new move to dissolve CDA?"

Hocog answered in general terms.

"I believe that there is a course of direction that will be forthcoming and I have advised the administration that it is not the right direction, like CPA," he said, adding later in an interview that government officials have already drafted a plan for CDA's dissolution and that "as of this morning, I have heard that plan is still active."

After the meeting, Itibus noted ru-

mors that the Fitial administration wants to "merge CDA with Commerce" in a bid to streamline the government's collections on loans. These rumors, he said, began before Fitial issued the executive order for CPA, but they have since continued.

Charles Reyes, the governor's spokesman, confirmed later in the day that the administration has considered such a move but that it would probably require the passage of legislation because CDA is an independent agency rather than a government division over which Fitial would have

direct control.

In related news, the CDA board delayed action on a request by the owners of the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort for a series of tax relief measures connected to the resort's multi-million dollar expansion project. A CDA staffer said the delay is due to the absence of data from the Department of Finance's Division of Taxation and Revenue.

CDA expects to hold a second meeting later this week to issue its recommendation once the data is available to complete its report, the staff said.

## FITIAL

From Page 1

The governor last Friday issued an executive order removing a requirement for any CUC debt over \$500,000 to be approved by law specifically allowing it.

Under Fitial's new order, CUC is authorized "to borrow money from any private or public source, either within

the Commonwealth or the United States or in any country, and to give security in connection with such borrowing."

The document amends a 2006 executive order that capped CUC's borrowing power at \$500,000. It does not cite any reason for the policy change.

As provided by the Constitution, the executive order will become effective 60 days after submission to the Legislature, unless modified or rejected by a majority of the members of the Senate

or the House of Representatives.

In addition to the constitutional provision, the executive order includes a clause allowing the plan to be effective immediately upon being approved by one house of the Legislature. This means that the executive order could go into effect as early as today, if the House members vote to approve it during session. The House will convene at 2pm today.

One lawmaker yesterday raised con-

cern about the executive order. Rep. Edward Salas said the administration must justify its proposal to delete the \$500,000 debt ceiling.

He noted that CUC's earlier plan to borrow \$4.5 million from the Marianas Public Land Trust is now a moot issue. The Legislature has already earmarked future MPLT earnings to the contracts that CUC was looking to fund with the proposed MPLT debt.

"Wasn't the earmark supposed to

take care of CUC's problems? Why are we still borrowing now? For what purpose?" Salas said.

He also pointed out that the executive order cites the wrong Commonwealth Code provision to be amended. Title I, Section 8123(c), which was cited in the executive order, relates to hiring qualifications for the head of the Office of Personnel Management. The provision on CUC's borrowing power is codified in Title 4, Section 8123(e).



# Investors eye reviving the Sunset Villa Hotel

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Two prospective investors are eyeing the now dilapidated Sunset Villa Hotel on Rota with offers that could revive it, officials with the Commonwealth Development Authority and one of the interested buyers said during

a conference Tuesday.

CDA foreclosed the Sunset Villa, a 14-room beachfront hotel complete with six cottages and several deluxe suites, in 2000 and paid \$990,000 for the property. CDA later installed a company, La Paloma, to run the hotel on a 55-year lease but it later pulled out of the deal and a

second bidder did the same.

Now one of the hotel's previous owners, Rep. Victor Hocog (I-Rota), has revealed he is crafting a proposal to resume control over it with the aid of CDA officials.

"I cannot stomach driving back and forth on Rota and seeing that hotel being badly dilapidated,"

Hocog said in an interview after CDA's monthly board meeting, adding that he hopes to reopen the hotel. "So I've come back to see if I can help to put it back together and help CDA recoup its costs."

Hocog plans to present a proposal to CDA next month, he said, once he and the agency finish talks on the deal and the

hotel's price tag.

Meanwhile, CDA executive director Oscar Camacho said in the meeting that a Japanese investor has presented a \$300,000 offer for the property in an e-mail sent to the agency. Camacho stopped short of identifying the prospective buyer, but noted that the initial offer is far less than the price CDA has in mind.

"We think it's too low but we do need to respond," Camacho told the CDA board, adding that the agency wants a minimum bid of \$750,000, a figure based on a 2005 appraisal.

Nevertheless, CDA board members suggested the agency should consider a counter offer, with some suggesting \$500,000 could be enough, given how long

the property has sat vacant.

"The situation right now is very bleak," CDA board chair Pedro Itibus said. "To let this property sit there idly won't make any more profit for CDA."

CDA board members voiced concerns the building could fall victim to vandalism given the recent economic downturn in the Commonwealth, a factor that adds to the urgency of finding a new owner to manage the site. In addition, the value of the property is somewhat in doubt after CDA staff revealed that an assessment of the hotel suggests it could need up to \$200,000 worth of renovations.

## Survey on for potential underground leak sites

The Division of Environmental Quality is conducting a site survey and inventory to identify potential sources of contamination from leaking underground storage tanks on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

These tanks may have been used for the storage of fuels, such as gasoline, diesel or aviation fuel, or other regulated substances, including used oil.

Potential sites that DEQ is interested in are former gasoline stations or other fuel dispensing facilities or installations that used

underground tanks to store fuel or regulated substances. Such sites may have been abandoned or redeveloped years ago.

"The purpose of this inventory and survey is to identify such sites and make certain that any source of contamination is addressed," said DEQ's Reina Camacho in a recent e-mail.

Duenas & Associates Inc. is under contract with the DEQ to conduct this site survey and inventory.

"This survey will be used to obtain necessary resources to ad-

dress, and ultimately close, such sites in an environmentally responsible manner," she added.

During the course of this survey, D&A will review existing documentations, inclusive of but not limited to past property and site maps, aerial photography, fire department records

and underground storage tank records.

DEQ and D&A will be hosting a series of public meetings to inform the community of the organization's intentions.

For additional information, call 664-8500. *(Jacqueline Dela Cruz)*

## 'Reusable tote bags a success'

Shoppers are saving money and helping the environment by using reusable bags instead of plastic bags at one local grocery store.

As part of the Department of Environmental Quality's Green Business Initiative, the organization gave 100 tote bags to Joeten stores and Carmen Safeway for consumers to use instead of plastic bags for groceries, DEQ spokesperson Reina Camacho said.

Each time a consumer uses a reusable bag, they are eligible for a \$25 drawing each week to use at the store. The initiative has ended at Joeten, but will continue at Carmen Safeway through December, Camacho said.

She said consumers have finally started noticing the bags

and are using them more.

"People need to see it several times before it clicks in their head," she added.

Camacho also noted that any type of reusable bag could be used, not just bags provided by DEQ.

She said she's not quite sure why more people are using the bags, but hopes it does have to do with the environment.

"I'm hoping that the real reason that people are wanting to use tote bags are because they're realizing they are using a lot of plastic bags, that the reusable bags are better for the environment," she said.

The \$25 savings might also be luring consumers, she added. *(Kristi Eaton)*

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# Heavy showers cause flooding in some areas

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Certain areas on Saipan were inundated with floodwaters yesterday after a trough of low pressure brought scattered showers to the Marianas region.

Emergency Management Office public information of-

ficer Juan T. Camacho said that flooding occurred in Tanapag, Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa and As Perdido.

As of noon yesterday, the EMO reported no serious accidents resulting from the floods.

At 9am yesterday, water, rocks, tree branches and other

debris covered the south- and northbound lanes of the highway in front of the former KC Market in Tanapag. As a result, motorists were forced to drive slowly along the center of the highway.

At the same time, floodwaters cascaded from the mountain, inundating all four lanes

along a portion of the highway near the Saipan Ice intersection. A Department of Public Works crew promptly cleared the road of debris. The cleanup triggered a minor traffic jam.

EMO staff usually monitor roadways for possible flooding during times of heavy rainfall.

EMO then reports the matter to the appropriate agency, which then gives orders to open the necessary roadside drains to accommodate the flooding, said Camacho.

Any accidents are reported to the police, he added.

Camacho said the trough of low pressure also brought iso-

lated thunderstorms to the Marianas yesterday morning.

According to the Marianas synopsis, showers were expected to be isolated yesterday afternoon and evening.

He added that scattered showers and thunderstorms were also expected yesterday evening after midnight.

## TENTH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS

### A. Samoan retailer backs 'Safe Festival' campaign

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa**—A business opportunity and a sense of duty have combined to make a shop owner in American Samoa a strong advocate of the Safe Festival Campaign organized for the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa.

Fala Leasiolagi, owner of the *Island Stop & Go* shop, who is distributing free Safe Festival condom packs, believes the move will attract more business.

The Safe Festival campaign is being run by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's HIV & STI Section, in collaboration with the American Samoan Department of Health and the Festival Organizing Committee. Its aim is to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections.

At the start of the festival, campaign organizers had intended to distribute 2,000 backpacks containing packages of female and male condoms, factual information on HIV and AIDS, HIV testing, STIs, and safe sex, and other health promotion items, to participants through health briefings with each country delegation.

However, after the condom distribution was criticized by

local Catholic bishop, Bishop Weitzel, the Congregational Christian Church asked that the condoms be removed from the backpacks to be given to around 800 artists housed at its Kanana Fou Theological Campus.

When Leasiolagi heard this, he offered to help out. In fact, he says he was approached by American Samoa's Medical Director, Dr. Ivan Tuliau, to distribute the condoms from his shop, which is handily located for festival participants staying at Kanana Fou. He immediately recognized it as a business opportunity, saying, "I'm willing to consider anything that will bring more customers through the door."

However, it is also a chance to assist the festival organizers he says. "The entire community is helping the Festival Organizing Committee and this is my contribution. I don't see anything wrong with condom distribution. I don't see why they're making a big deal of it. It's for the safety of everyone."

He says many of the people who come in for condoms also buy other goods. While some people are shy, others are uninhibited. "Some people take several packages to give to



Safe Festival Campaign condoms are being distributed for free at the *Island Stop & Go* shop.

their friends who are too shy to come in. Some people come in, then go out until they build up enough courage and come back in again."

People generally come in groups of four or five and are a mix of all ages with the majority being in their 20s and 30s, says Leasiolagi. Those around 50 years or more are mainly women and in general more women than men are taking the condoms. Both sexes are taking female and male condoms.

Many locals are also taking advantage of the free condoms and Leasiolagi, who does not currently sell condoms, intends to start stocking them.

He says sexuality is an issue that is not often spoken about in American Samoa. "It's just how we are. We don't openly talk about sexual issues."

This is beginning to change though. The territory has high rates of teenage pregnancy and the government is currently running a teenage pregnancy awareness campaign.

Leasiolagi believes the issue is becoming less taboo for young people because of greater exposure to Western influences and easier access to information through various media.

"The government is trying to take a lead on opening up forums, for example, it is encouraging talk within families."

Leasiolagi has not encountered any problems or criticism with distributing the condoms. "[Free] distribution is a lot easier than retail," he laughs.

SPC's HIV and STI prevention adviser, Robyn Drysdale, says previous experience in the Pacific shows that people are at greater risk during big regional events. In Palau, STI rates increased threefold in the three months after the Festival of Pacific Arts was held there in 2004. Two HIV cases were diagnosed in the months following, which may have been as a result of the festival. However, with HIV it is hard to identify the exact moment of infection because HIV antibodies show up anywhere between two weeks and three months after infection occurs. Because someone can have HIV for months or years without knowing it, the only way people can be sure of their status is to have an HIV antibody test.

The organizers of the Safe Festival campaign are distributing female and male condoms at various festival venues and are also offering free, confidential HIV testing. Over 2000 artists are attending the festival. (SPC)



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#### LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

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with respect to Applications Filed with the Labor Department

On August 1, 2008, the Labor Division will begin publishing on the Labor Department's website, [www.marianaslabor.net](http://www.marianaslabor.net), notices with respect to deficiencies in and denials of applications. The Labor Division will also post these notices on the bulletin boards at its offices in the Afetna Square building in San Antonio.

The Department is taking this step in part because of difficulties in the past when foreign national workers did not know that an employer's application involving employment for them had been deficient or denied. This way, everyone involved will have access to the notice. In addition, the Department is operating under an austerity budget that requires it to use the most efficient legally permissible means possible to deliver notices.

All applicants are responsible for checking the website or the bulletin boards for actions taken on any pending application. Applicants will have 15 days from the date of posting to cure deficiencies or to appeal denials.

If an applicant provides an e-mail address at the time of application, the Department's automated processing system will automatically send an e-mail with respect to any deficiency or denial. The e-mail notice is a courtesy provided by the Department. Absence of an e-mail notice will not excuse any failure to cure a deficiency or to appeal a denial.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
Second Floor MetLife Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



#### LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Published Notice of  
E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public and to avoid waits or call-backs on the telephone system, the Department of Labor has established mailboxes on the government e-mail system for the most common inquiries. If you post your inquiry to one of these mailboxes, it will be answered promptly by a Department of Labor employee with responsibility for the area covered by your inquiry. You may call the Department of Labor on the established phone numbers if you prefer.

##### Employment Services

[employmentservices@cnmi-gov.net](mailto:employmentservices@cnmi-gov.net)

Please use this e-mail address for questions about JVAs, job openings, resumes, or services to persons looking for work. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Employment Services.

##### Labor Processing

[laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net](mailto:laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net)

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of initial applications, renewal applications, or transfer applications; or questions about Labor Processing forms posted on the website. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing.

##### Labor Enforcement

[laborenforcement@cnmi-gov.net](mailto:laborenforcement@cnmi-gov.net)

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of repatriation, investigations, or other enforcement processes or to report illegal activities. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Enforcement.

##### Administrative Hearing Office

[laborearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net](mailto:laborearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net)

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the issuance of orders or receipt of payments. This e-mail address may not be used for any kind of notice to the Hearing Office, for any requests for orders by the Hearing Office such as extensions of time, or for submitting required documents to the Hearing Office.



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Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



#### LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Requirements for Filing a Complete Application

The requirements of the Labor Department's automated processing system necessitate that each application be complete when filed. However, applications need to be complete when filed only for Labor Department purposes, not for Immigration Division purposes. Applications can be supplemented when they reach the Immigration Division.

For Labor Department purposes, the following are NOT REQUIRED in order to have a complete application filed with Labor Processing:

- Health certification
- Police clearance
- Passport copy
- BGRT information

Employment Services may require the filing of BGRT information in connection with a job vacancy announcement and Labor Processing may request BGRT information when examining an application, but this information is not required to be filed in every case.

A completed Job Vacancy Announcement **IS REQUIRED** in order to have a complete application.



# Fifth round of talks on Guam buildup

The Joint Guam Program Office is holding its fifth round of "partnering sessions" with environmental regulatory agencies this week.

The three-day partnering sessions kicked off on Saipan yesterday, with an aim to update the agencies on the status of the

Guam military buildup master planning as related to the environmental impact studies.

Addressing the participants yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial described as a "monumental process" the planned transfer of some 8,000 Marines and military dependents into Guam and

the Northern Marianas.

Fitial underscored the importance of close coordination among U.S. military agencies and many different federal agencies, as well as with state and local agencies.

"In planning and preparing for this major relocation of

U.S. troops, the federal and local and state governments must work together to help minimize the adverse environmental impacts of this giant undertaking. We must work to minimize social disruptions and maximize economic opportunities. We must plan intelligently to reduce social and environmental costs, while

maximizing economic benefits for the region," he said.

Fitial also said the military buildup in the Marianas "represents the best hope for a sustained economic recovery for our islands." He noted that the buildup is expected to bring in at least \$11 billion in capital infusion over the next several years.

Agencies in the partnering sessions include the Coastal Resources Management, the Division of Environmental Quality, the Historic Preservation Office, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The sessions will continue at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan today before moving to Tinian tomorrow. *(Agnes E. Donato)*

## FHB posts record earnings in first half of '08

First Hawaiian Bank over the weekend posted record earnings for the first half of 2008 as banks elsewhere in the nation also revealed a mixed bag of earnings reports and financial troubles.

First Hawaiian's income in the second quarter of 2008 stands at \$55.1 million, a 6.2-percent increase over the same period in 2007, the bank said in a July 26 statement. For the first six months of 2008, First Hawaiian posted a total of \$111.3 million worth of income, up 7.7 percent over the first half of last year, it said.

"Despite the slowing local and national economies, the bank continued to perform well during

the first half of 2008," First Hawaiian's president and CEO, Don Horner, said. "Revenue growth, margin, and asset quality all remained strong. Our relationship strategy initiatives, productivity improvements, and consistent credit policies have positioned us well for continued growth."

First Hawaiian's total revenues jumped 12.4 percent to \$345 million in the first half of the year, the bank says in its statement, while its total assets rose 4 percent to \$13 billion.

First Hawaiian's record earnings come as federal regulators last week ordered two regional banks in the United States to

shut down due to a lack of capital—the First National Bank of Nevada and First Heritage Bank, according to news reports. Banking experts note these closures mark the sixth and seventh bank failures this year.

However, other banks around the nation are seeing significant gains. Princeton National Bancorp, for example, the parent company of Citizens First National Bank in a statement this week revealed it has seen a 37 percent gain in net income over 2007. Several other banks this week also posted significant income jumps over last year. *(Stefan Sebastian)*

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Public meetings for FAS citizens, other issues

The Coalition of United Workers (NMI) is organizing a series of meetings and is inviting the public to attend these meetings:

■ If you are a FAS citizen who has an alien spouse, please attend a meeting on Aug. 5 at 9:30am at Kilili Pavilion.

■ If you have not received your federal stimulus check or have questions about the stimulus check you received, please attend a meeting on Aug. 5, 7pm at American Memorial Park.

"Important issues will be discussed so we are encouraging interested parties to attend," said Coalition president Irene Tantiado. *(PR)*

#### Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008 at 5pm at the Herman's Bakery Conference Room. Information regarding the group

and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of children with autism are invited to attend.

For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larissa at 322-3761 or send an email to [as\\_cnmi@yahoo.com](mailto:as_cnmi@yahoo.com). *(PR)*

#### Live fire training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training on the northern island of Farallon de Mendenilla from July 28 through Aug. 1, between 9am and 7pm.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office advises the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to avoid the Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Any questions should be directed to the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16 and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. *(EMO)*

## Got Diabetes? "You Need an Eye Exam Every Year"

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## SHIPPING SCHEDULE

 **MARIANA**  
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MELL SINGAPORE	012E	7/19 SAT	7/17 THU	7/7 MON	7/24 THU	7/8 TUE	7/12 SAT	7/25 FRI	7/21 MON	7/20 SUN	7/15 TUE	7/6 SUN	7/21 MON	7/25 FRI	7/19 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	020E	7/26 SAT	7/24 THU	7/24 THU	7/31 THU	7/15 TUE	7/19 SAT	8/1 FRI	7/28 MON	7/27 SUN	7/22 TUE	7/13 SUN	7/28 MON	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/2 SAT	7/31 THU	7/31 THU	8/7 THU	7/22 TUE	7/26 SAT	8/8 FRI	8/4 MON	8/3 SUN	7/29 TUE	7/20 SUN	8/4 MON	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/9 SAT	8/7 THU	8/7 THU	8/14 THU	7/29 TUE	8/2 SAT	8/15 FRI	8/11 MON	8/10 SUN	8/5 TUE	7/27 SUN	8/18 MON	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/16 SAT	8/14 THU	8/14 THU	8/21 THU	8/5 TUE	8/9 SAT	8/22 FRI	8/18 MON	8/17 SUN	8/12 TUE	8/3 SUN	8/25 MON	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT
MELL SENOKO	009E	8/23 SAT	8/21 THU	8/21 THU	8/28 THU	8/12 TUE	8/16 SAT	8/29 FRI	8/25 MON	8/24 SUN	8/19 TUE	8/10 SUN	9/1 MON	8/29 FRI	8/30 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	012E	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/2 SAT	8/5 TUE	8/6 WED	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	7/22 TUE	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/21 THU	8/19 TUE	8/20 WED
STADT HAMBURG	020E	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	8/9 SAT	SKIP	8/13 WED	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/19 TUE	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/28 THU	8/26 TUE	8/27 WED
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/16 SAT	SKIP	8/20 WED	8/22 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/23 SAT	8/22 FRI	8/30 SAT	9/4 THU	9/2 TUE	9/3 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/23 SAT	SKIP	8/27 WED	8/29 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/30 SAT	8/29 FRI	9/6 SAT	9/11 THU	9/2 TUE	9/10 WED
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/29 FRI	8/30 SAT	8/30 SAT	SKIP	9/3 WED	9/5 FRI	9/6 SAT	8/6 WED	8/29 FRI	9/13 SAT	9/11 THU	9/9 TUE	9/17 WED
MELL SENOKO	009E	9/5 FRI	9/6 SAT	9/6 SAT	SKIP	9/10 WED	9/12 FRI	9/13 SAT	8/13 WED	9/5 FRI	9/20 SAT	9/18 THU	9/16 TUE	9/24 WED

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Moving the world



# A night of art, music, and sake

Revolving Restaurant 360, in association with Ashley Moffatt Uys, is opening a gallery style art show featuring the works of renowned Japanese landscape artist Hiroshige, on July 31 and Aug. 1, 2008, between the hours of 5pm and 8pm.

"Please join us. Our chef has prepared an array of special complimentary Asian appetizers, enjoy a cup of sake on us, listen to the tantalizing violin music of Ao Zhang, and take a tour of the 'Floating World of the Ukiyo-e'," said the restaurant in a statement issued yesterday.

Hiroshige (1797-1858), is widely considered as Japan's premier landscape artist, and his intricate prints are made from wood block carvings. Hiroshige differentiated himself from his contemporaries by eschewing the traditionally popular genres of Kabuki actors and women to concen-

trate on landscapes.

The opportunity to see the works of this great artist is presented by Revolving Restaurant 360 and curator Ashley Uys.

Uys is the owner of Fu Dogs & Qi, Saipan's newest art and antique gallery, opening soon on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. She has been a Corporate Art Consultant working with NBC, Xerox, Edison, TRW, Bank of America, and a host of other

well known corporate names, assisting them with their art needs for 25 years. She brings her knowledge and passion for art to this show, as she shares her personal collection of these fine prints.

Uys has been an avid collector of Hiroshige's work dating back to a childhood friendship with architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who insisted that any home he designed have locations for at least three of Hiro-

shige's pieces.

"I am looking forward to sharing Hiroshige's museum quality art with Saipan," said Uys. "We have many Japanese visitors on this island and the views of ordinary life in the 1800s represented by Hiroshige's art brings me closer to understanding their heritage."

For more information on the show, contact Revolving Restaurant 360 at 234-3600, or 285-0360. (PR)



## Saipan World Resort holds monthly cleanup

The Saipan World Resort staff, headed by its Human Resources Manager, Miriam K. Seman, conducted the monthly trash cleanup on Saturday, July 26, 2008, from 8am to 9am.

The cleanup team covered areas sur-

rounding the resort's grounds, including the hotel's beach front and former AJ's and Dr. Jack's Bar and Grill.

"The regular monthly clean up is part of Saipan World Resort's commitment to help-

ing keep the CNMI clean and beautiful, not only for the local residents but most importantly for our tourist. In addition, these efforts instill a sense of ownership amongst our staff at Saipan World Resort," Seman said. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Management and staff of Saipan World Resort gather for a photo after the morning trash cleanup around Saipan World Resort.

## NMC English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will conduct an English placement test on the following days:

■ Aug. 6	1pm-4pm	Room D-1
■ Aug. 7	5pm-8pm	Room D-1
■ Aug. 11	5pm-8pm	Room D-1
■ Aug. 20	5pm-8pm	Room A-9
■ Aug. 21	8am-11am	Room A-9

No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733 or 1212. (NMC)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### July 30, 1999

#### State of emergency

A Commonwealth-wide state of disaster emergency was declared yesterday by the government following indications of major eruptions of a volcano in Alamagan that have forced evacuation of residents and restricted travels to the island north of Saipan. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in his disaster declaration, said Alamagan is unsafe for human habitation and that travels to the tiny island will only be allowed for scientific expeditions, such as monitoring of the volcanic activities there.

#### Bill to regulate finance companies axed

While he acknowledged the need for government control, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio vetoed yesterday a bill seeking to regulate finance companies, except banks, that extend consumer loans on the island due to vague provisions of the proposed law. Offered by Rep. Karl T. Reyes, the measure was the first attempt by the Commonwealth to provide for licensing and regulation of the financial sector which has increased in recent years.

#### Legislature OKs Rota Resort lease extension

Legislators yesterday voted unanimously to grant for the third time a 15-year lease extension to the Rota Resort and Country Club aimed to bail out the financially-distressed company and help attract new investors to the tourists' golf haven. The move followed decision by the Board of Public Lands to endorse the additional 15 years on top of the initial 25-year lease agreement with its Japanese owner, SNM Corporation, that ended months of squabble on the prime property.

### July 30, 2001

#### Power rate hikes capped

Utility customers may be on the brink of a major windfall after the Senate passed a bill that would set a limit on how high the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation can increase its rates for electricity and water. After hurdling second and final reading at the Upper Chamber, Senate Bill 12-115 now goes to the House of Representatives for review and approval.

#### PSS to assess reading ability of first graders

Public school first graders will be spending the early part of the new school year answering a Reading diagnostic test designed to assess the reading ability of local students. Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos reported to the Board of Education last week that the implementation of the Reading test is part of the PSS' accountability efforts in gauging the level of students' reading ability, starting from the most crucial learning stage.

#### Fitial slams Babauta

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday criticized Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta's failure to stop his contacts in the US Congress from persistently assaulting the CNMI. "He is either on a permanent vacation in Washington or he is the most ineffective representative of CNMI interests we have ever had," Fitial said in a media statement.

### July 30, 2002

#### Payroll money drying up

Government employees got their salaries last Friday but little did they know that they nearly didn't get it. Cash flow problems has put a chokehold on the government's \$7.2 million bi-weekly payroll, sending the Babauta administration scrambling to the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon for an emergency meeting to tackle possible courses of action. As a temporary measure, the government has decided to momentarily withhold the release of refund and rebate checks and the submission of payments to vendors so it could meet its payroll obligations.

#### Few qualify for Police Academy

The Department of Public Safety is having difficulty recruiting qualified individuals who will become the next graduates of the new cycle of the Police Academy, with only 12 percent or 30 of 254 applicants meeting the minimum requirements. DPS Commissioner Edward C. Camacho admitted Friday that the Police Academy, which was supposed to start a few months back, has been moved several times due to the dismal turnout.



# Solomons delegate dies at Samoa arts fests

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa**—A member of the Solomon Islands delegation at the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in American Samoa passed away early yesterday morning.

George Garry, 47, died at 5:10am. Garry was a wood carver.

At a press conference called by the Festival Organizing Commit-

tee yesterday afternoon, Dr. Ivan Tuliau, Medical Director of the American Samoa Department of Health, said the presumed cause of death was cerebral malaria.

He said Dr. John Hui, the doctor traveling with the Solomon Islands delegation and staying at the same venue, was informed of Garry's illness shortly before 4am.

After assessing the severity of his condition, Hui called the Emergency Medical Service to transfer Garry to the hospital. He died before reaching the hospital despite intensive resuscitation efforts.

Tuliau said to his knowledge, Garry had not complained of any symptoms until shortly before Hui was called. He said that

Garry would have contracted the disease before arriving in American Samoa as the malaria-transmitting mosquito is not present in American Samoa.

A short church service was held yesterday morning. In attendance were American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono and board members of the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts Organizing Committee.

Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde, co-chairman of the Organizing Committee, said the government of American Samoa would take care of all necessary arrangements for the deceased.

The body would be flown back to the Solomon Islands with the delegation, which is traveling on a charter flight currently scheduled to depart American Samoa after the festival on Monday, Aug. 3.

Today, the Solomon Islands delegation will not participate in the festival program. The program will continue as planned for all other participating countries. (SPC)

## WITH WIFE'S IMPENDING DEPORTATION

# Saipan fraudster's legacy continues

By LENA SIN  
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE  
TIMES COLONIST — VICTORIA

**VANCOUVER**—A Russian mail-order bride's attempt to trade the anguish of her old life for a better one in the West has ended in bitter disappointment as she faces deportation from British Columbia, Canada.

Nelli Tikhonova was a hopeful 20-year-old when she arrived in Surrey in 1996 to start a new life with her American husband.

Today, she's a 32-year-old abandoned single mother.

Shanice, the daughter of Nelli Tikhonova, is a Canadian citizen by birth, but her mother has lost her appeal to the Federal Court.

"It was beyond my control," says Tikhonova. "[My husband] left at the end of 2000. He was going to Saipan for business purposes. He said he was going to return to take care of my [immigration] paperwork. He never did."

With no legal status in Canada because of her husband's failure to process the immigration paperwork, Tikhonova now faces deportation despite being the mother of a Canadian-born child.

Her application for permanent residency based on compassionate and humanitarian grounds was rejected last fall.

In a last-ditch attempt to stay, Tikhonova appealed to the Federal Court for a judicial review of the immigration officer's decision. That too failed.

Despite his "great sympathy," Federal Court Judge James Russell refused to order the judicial review.

"Ms. Tikhonova has had a very difficult childhood and has experienced many difficulties in her past and will undoubtedly face further difficulties in returning to Russia," the judge wrote in his decision released this month. "However, I cannot find, on the facts of this case that the [visa] officer erred."

Mir Huculak, Tikhonova's lawyer, fears for his client's future if she is returned to Russia and fumes at the thought of her daughter being denied a Canadian childhood.

"[She has] a child who is Canadian and the immigra-

tion officer says she can take the child [to Russia] and the child won't suffer any harm—but she will," says Huculak. "The child won't have Canadian rights. She won't have a Canadian education."

A harrowing childhood in Russia in which Tikhonova's father allegedly sold her for sex to criminal associates starting at 13 left Tikhonova desperate to escape, according to court testimony.

Like thousands of young women worldwide caught in miserable circumstances, Tikhonova said she believed becoming a mail-order bride was her ticket out. She met her American husband, Bert Douglas Montgomery, through a matrimonial ad in 1994.

They married the following

year in Russia then moved to Las Vegas.

But in 1996, Montgomery decided to move his business to B.C. and brought his wife with him.

While he promised to handle all the paperwork necessary for Tikhonova to obtain landed immigrant status, it never happened, according to the court document.

In 2000, Montgomery's web of lies began unraveling when he was arrested on Saipan. Montgomery was charged and convicted of multiple counts of wire fraud and money laundering.

He is now serving a 20-year prison sentence in the U.S. for his part in a massive scheme to defraud the Bank of Saipan of \$6.6 million.

It also came to light that Montgomery was already married when he married Tikhonova, rendering their marriage a nullity, according to court testimony.

While her husband was away, Tikhonova entered into a relationship with another man from the Lower Mainland, with whom she had a daughter in 2004.

But Tikhonova alleges he was violent and she left him after the birth of their baby girl, Shanice, according to court documents.

While Shanice, now 3, is Canadian by birthright, Tikhonova has no claim to citizenship.

The mother says if she is deported, her daughter will have to go to Russia with her as the father plays no role in Shanice's life.



AP

The King of Tonga George Tupou V waves to thousands of Tongan school children in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Monday, July 28, 2008. Preparations have begun for lavish coronation ceremonies starting Wednesday to formally enthrone George V, a hugely ceremonial event that is expected to bring Tonga to a standstill for four days and be watched throughout the region.

## New Tongan king to give up most powers

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga** (AP)—Tonga's king has agreed to give up much of the near-absolute power his family has held for generations over this tiny South Pacific nation, his spokesman said Monday.

King George Tupou V will relinquish his role in day-to-day governmental affairs and will be guided by the prime minister "in all matters of governance," said the king's palace spokesman, Lord Chamberlain, Hon. Fielakepa.

Tonga is one of just a handful of countries in the world where the monarch runs the day-to-day government.

George V, 60, is making the changes to ensure the monarchy is ready for the 2010 elections, which will transfer the majority voice in Parliament to the people, Fielakepa said late Monday. Like many Tongan nobles, Fielakepa uses just one name.

"The Sovereign of the only Polynesian kingdom ... is voluntarily surrendering his powers to meet the democratic aspirations of many of his people," Fielakepa said.

The people "favor a more representative, elected Parliament. The king agrees with them," he said in a statement. No period was given.

The palace has for years promised democratic reforms, but progress has been slow and public dissatisfaction has been building. Tensions at a pro-democracy rally in the capital, Nuku'alofa, boiled over into riots in 2006 that left eight dead and the city's downtown razed.

The announcement was made just two days before Tonga begins lavish coronation ceremonies to formally enthrone George V, an event that is expected to bring Tonga to a standstill for four days.

Since ascending the throne in 2006 after the death of his father, Tupou IV, the new king has promised to speed up the reforms.

Currently, the king appoints the prime minister and 13 Cabinet ministers. Noble families—who have close ties to the king—choose nine others. Just nine lawmakers are elected by voters.



## Coordinator – Marketing/Communications/Public Relations

### Responsibilities:

- Coordinate marketing communications programs, promotions, marketing events, advertising campaigns and publicity defined by product management
- Along with Marketing Manager, serve as company's interface with its advertising media ensuring that expenditures are consistent with company business and profitability priorities and that quality results are achieved
- Assist Product Managers in training employees on company products and services
- Assist with product management of the company's prepaid long distance and landline business
- Draft and review corporate communication for Marketing Manager and distribute to media
- Coordinate and oversee PTI's donation programs consistent with approved external affairs strategies and operational plans
- Perform other related duties as assigned

### Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing (or related field) or equivalent experience. Four years of progressive experience in marketing, communications or public relations. May substitute education with an equivalent combination of related work experience
- Working knowledge in the design and coordination of marketing, communications and public relations activities. Demonstrated successful experience in drafting press releases and other creative materials, making presentations and negotiating with media. Experience overseeing the design, editing and production of print materials and publications. Advanced computer literacy in word processing and spreadsheet programs. Strong oral and written communication skills. Strong organizational and event management skills. Ability to coordinate multiple projects at the same time. Ability to work under deadline pressure and extra hours if needed on assignment.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### The reign of 'Sheriff Joe'

**M**anuel de Jesus Ortega Melendres, a Mexican citizen, entered the United States legally last fall, using a visa valid until 2016 as well as a permit from the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Ortega had every reason to believe he was on the right side of the law, except for one small misstep: being brown in Maricopa County.

Maricopa, which includes Phoenix, is home to more than half of Arizona's 6.2 million people. It is also the domain of Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who is determined to make life miserable for illegal immigrants. Trouble is, "Sheriff Joe," as he is universally known, isn't too particular about how he and his men identify illegal immigrants, or whether they also harass legal immigrants such as Mr. Ortega, or, for that matter, American citizens who happen to be Hispanic. "We know how to determine whether these guys are illegal," Mr. Arpaio told the Chicago Tribune recently, "the way the situation looks, how they are dressed, where they are coming from."

Mr. Ortega had been in the United States for barely three weeks last September when Mr. Arpaio's deputies stopped the vehicle he was riding in. Despite showing the officers his documents, Mr. Ortega says he was handcuffed, treated roughly, jailed and finally turned over to federal immigration officials, who promptly released him. During the nine hours Mr. Ortega spent in custody, no one offered him a translator, or any explanation for his treatment, or food or water. Nor did anyone advise him of his Miranda rights. Little wonder Mr. Ortega is now afraid to be seen in public.

His experience is included in a class-action lawsuit filed last week in federal district court in Arizona against Mr. Arpaio, his office and Maricopa County. The complaint recounts similar episodes, including one involving Velia Meraz and Manuel Nieto, U.S. citizens who say they were ordered from their car at gunpoint, handcuffed and menaced by sheriff's deputies who seemed to take offense that the pair were listening to music on a Spanish-language radio station.

The lawsuit lays out a pattern of alleged racial profiling by the sheriff's office, which by all appearances systematically seizes the flimsiest of pretexts — failing to use a turn signal and the like — to check the papers of people of Hispanic descent. By equating race with immigration status, the sheriff's office has made moving around Maricopa County risky and at times terrifying for many Latinos, immigrant and native alike.

Sheriff Joe likes to refer to his blatantly unconstitutional campaign of harassment as "crime suppression sweeps." These "sweeps" have been denounced not only by Latino groups, which consider them overtly racist, but also by the mayor of Phoenix, who has asked the Justice Department to investigate, and by Gov. Janet Napolitano, who has withdrawn state funding from the sheriff's office.

The sheriff loves describing himself as a tough guy and delights in humiliating prisoners by, among other things, making them wear pink underwear and swelter in open-air camps. He has gotten away with it — even won re-election — thanks to his colorful public persona and an electorate rattled by the demographic changes caused by immigration, legal and illegal. He denies allegations of racial profiling even as his deputies practice something that looks awfully like it. It's high time for federal authorities, or courts, to step in to halt what has become a travesty of justice in Arizona.

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## Dealing with 'the thing': A prelude to change

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

**O**ne of the most profound thoughts I've ever heard is this: *The only way to control someone is to lie to them. People cannot be controlled by the truth.*

Think about that in all its applications and permutations and the depth of the concept will astound you. If someone is controlling you, it's because there is a lie at work. People who feel controlled have bought into, accepted and are living a lie that has been sold to them.

If you, as a person in power, wish to control the masses, you can only do it through deception. Truth, by its very nature is freeing, liberating, and empowering. Truth frees those who offer it, and empowers those who receive it. It becomes more and more difficult to control someone the more empowered with truth they become. Leaders know this.

Similarly, a relationship built on lies is a relationship with control as its goal. A relationship where someone feels controlled is one based on lies.

If you somehow feel disempowered, without options, helpless, and at the mercy of others or outside forces, it is because you have bought into a deception of reality, of others and/or of yourself.

That lie is different for each of us. For many of us, it was an untruth that started back in our childhoods. I call it "the thing."

*You know what I'm referring to,  
so don't play coy with me  
It's written all across your life  
quite plain to those who see*

*The thing you've long since justified  
The thing you never did  
The thing in you that's long since died  
The thing from us you hid*

*The thing you never talk about  
The thing you're scared to try  
The thing you think no one can see  
The thing you can't ask why*

*That thing that makes them wink and nod  
when talks of you arise  
The thing that snuffed your childlike spark  
and dimmed those light-filled eyes*

*The thing that others get from you  
that pushes them away*

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).



*The thing we know would make you smile  
But sadly never say*

*The thing that always blocks your view  
no matter how you climb  
The thing you must now get beyond  
to live while there's still time*

*Each person has a different thing  
they need to rise above  
To live the life they've dared to dream  
and leap from fear to love*

And those of us who see patterns easily can grasp it in an instant. You think you do a good job of keeping it hidden. But it's so obvious. And the evidence that speaks louder than anything else you say or do is simply that you're living below your dreams—and you already know it.

It's all connected, you see. You didn't get here by chance. You didn't arrive at this place randomly. It is the end result of a series of steps taken after the lie was accepted. In order to heal, therefore, you need to retrace that path. In life, you see, you heal a pain by going back along the path you took to get there. So, in order to return to the you you were before "the thing"—the lie—occurred, you'll need to go back through it. Isolate it. Admit it. Accept it. Recognize it's power over you. Then, don't be afraid to look it squarely in the eye, as you get beyond it, and say goodbye.

This is dedicated to all who struggle, but never quite get there, because they feel "the thing" coming again and again up to block their progress, and just don't know how to get beyond it. Remember that the only way to control someone is to lie to them. And the only way to be controlled is to accept that lie. A person is never controlled by truth, only lies. So start to dissolve the control this thing has on your life by admitting it, talking about it, and allowing yourself to acknowledge and feel the effects of its truth in your life. The only way to improve things is to deal squarely with the deception. It is the prelude to change.

**Note:** For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com)!

**Note:** There's a new blog in town! Check out [www.blackson-](http://www.blackson-)

See DEALING on Next Page



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# Germans like Obama for the same reasons middle Americans don't

By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ  
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

We already know that Barack Obama can be many things to many people, but could anyone have guessed that he would also be a good German?

In honor of the Democratic candidate's visit to Berlin last week, *Die Zeit*, the Hamburg-based weekly, disclosed for the first time that the Illinois senator's great-great-great-great-great-grandfather was an upstanding Alsatian farmer named Christian Gutknecht, who shoved off to America on Sept. 13, 1749. The article was titled "The German Obama."

And not only was the German media trying to claim Obama for their own last week, they were wishing and hoping that more of their leaders would be more like him. On the morning the Democratic presidential candidate arrived in Berlin, the sensational conservative tabloid *Bild* ran a hilarious feature titled, "Make us an Obama," which featured head shots of five German politicians morphed into a picture of Obama. These new Obamaized German politicians had remade names: Angela Omerkel, for example, under a strangely compelling version of the German chancellor crossed with Obama and notably sporting his short, short, short haircut.

The rest of the paper's coverage was breathless. "Why does the black Obama excite us so much?" asked one headline. The answer: "In his words, we hear a better future. In his aura, we see a glorious, righteous America. Hope is in his eyes. ... He is young! ... He is multiculti and modest! ... He doesn't talk, he preaches! ... He stands for freedom! ... He's not Bush! ... Welcome, Mr. Hope!"

It's one thing for Americans to get all hot and bothered about Obama, but it's another to see famously sober Germans get all

wound up about a foreign presidential candidate. Obama came to Germany just to strike a presidential pose, and as many as 200,000 Berliners were willing to serve as unpaid extras in what was essentially a political advertisement.

On one level, Obama's popularity in Germany has everything to do with George W. Bush's failed presidency and the trans-Atlantic tensions caused by the Iraq war. But on another, it has everything to do with the decline in German political culture.

"This is a German problem," said Wolfgang Nowak, a former high-level adviser to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. "The sad news is that no single German politician could get one-tenth of Obama's audience. He's telling us that politics can be different. It doesn't have to be dirty, that we can all work together."

Nowak says he was the first person to tell Chancellor Angela Merkel that Obama would be the next U.S. president. "It's like he was out of an American movie," Nowak told me. "And we Berliners are raised to expect Americans (like Obama) to arrive in times of crisis."

But what sells in Berlin won't necessarily sell in the American heartland. Yes, Obama appeared presidential. His speech was fluid, safe and filled with soaring rhetoric. Even as he acknowledged America's imperfections, he also reasserted its greatness and its self-imposed role as a light unto nations. By all accounts, his speech was well received. But could too much enthusiasm from those weak, latte-sipping Euros present a problem stateside?

According to German Marshall Fund Senior Director Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, for all their familiarity with American culture, Germans are fundamentally at odds with mainstream U.S. views. "Basically, Germans like everything about the U.S. that Middle America revolts against. They love elitist America, Harvard, the

East Coast, the cultured and the mannered. They don't understand the swagger and the cutting of the underbrush. Obama is not only the anti-Bush, he has the liberal, elitist feel that Germans like."

Particularly among American conservatives, there's been a lot of overblown talk these days about German anti-Americanism. They point to a 2008 Pew Survey that found 34 percent of Germans don't like Americans at all or in part, and 61 percent see the U.S. as heading for a landing on the ash heap of history. But Germany's case of Obamamania suggests another story line: that Germans are desperate to like America again and that the Democratic candidate has given them an excuse to come out of the closet. Or maybe he reminds them of their desire to have someone heroic of their own.

But appreciating American idealism and rejoicing in the exercise of American power are two different things. And although he may have sounded like it Thursday, Obama is not running for president of the world. If elected, he probably will toe lines that Europeans would want him to leap across. Do we really believe his German fans know the details of Obama's stance on the death penalty, the Second Amendment, or recognize his growing comfort in discussing the use of military power?

Temporarily blinded by his rock-star appeal, Germans are forgetting that, as leader of a nation so culturally distinct from their own, Obama will, by definition, not reflect their interests in the long term. In Europe, just as at home, Obama has raised expectations so high that he's nearly condemned to disappoint.

And more important, does his drop-dead charisma there portend a ballot-box bust here?

*Rodriguez, a columnist for the Times' opinion pages, is director of the California Fellows Program at the New America Foundation.*

## Letters to the Editor

### A dream of magnificent proportions

*"The framers of the Constitution may have been brilliant, but they weren't perfect.*

*They lived in another age—lawyers, merchants, and gentleman farmers—amateur politicians all. For their time the concepts they introduced were radical, but they were not unrestrained. The preamble may have been orchestrated for "We the People" but the fine print kept the common fingers off the piano keys.*

*The founders were men of property, in an age when only men who owned property could vote. The concept of common suffrage, to say nothing of women voting, was alien to them, something they would have rebelled against as vigorously as they fought the British Empire.*

*Campaigning for election to office was an act of personal dishonor. They could not conceive of their experiment falling into the hands of full-time politicians steered by armies of consultants, forming committees to suck millions in "donations" from those seeking favor from government; permanent officeholders who would wield the levers of power with the partisan ruthlessness of warlords.*

*A Congress routinely hijacking essential national legislation just to load it with amendments like tumors, hauling pork back to their districts to solidify their death grip on power—this would have been as alien to them as E.T.*

*When Lincoln sat in Congress for his single term, beginning in 1847, he considered himself lucky to have a desk with a drawer for his private papers and the privilege to borrow a book from time to time from the Library of Congress.*

*Only the insane of the eighteenth century could foresee that a bleak two lines added to the constitution a century after its creation, authorizing the collection of a federal income tax, could result in a seventy-year rampage by government to mentally rape its own citizens with millions of pages of totally unintelligible tax laws, rules regulations, and forms.*

*Today we have special federal tax courts because the law is so convoluted that ordinary federal judges are presumed too ignorant and unschooled to understand the complexities of laws and forms that every citizen down to the village janitor is required to understand, to obey, and to sign under penalty of perjury and threat of imprisonment.*

*Nor could it be possible in the age of reason to foresee a Social Security system that if run by a private business would result in their arrest, prosecution, and conviction for operating a Ponzi scheme. In the real world, taking invested funds in the form of Social Security taxes, paying current claims, and skimming the rest for other purposes is called embezzlement. When government does it, it is simply called politics. In either case the arithmetic is always the same. When the scheme goes belly-up, its operators, if they're smart, will be in Brazil, or, in the case of Congress, retired, which is the political equivalent to being in Brazil.*

*With all of this, the people in what is touted as the greatest democracy on the planet have no effective recourse. They cannot act directly to fix any of the obvious open sores or seeping wounds in their own government, because the founders didn't trust them with the only effective medicine, the power to amend their own Constitution. That is reserved for the serpent its creators never saw.*

*Short of revolution, something Jefferson urged take place at least every twenty years, the average citizen is left to pound sand by casting a largely empty vote to replace the devil-in-office with the devil-in-waiting and hope that the caustic nature of power to corrupt can somehow be neutralized.*

*Praying for the devil to grow a halo, we all prod on, one foot in front of the other, trusting that somehow we will not follow the Soviet Union over the national cliff."*

This is a powerful description of the Constitution of the United States of America. It was written by an attorney turned author, and is found in his latest work of fiction titled *Shadow of Power*, published 2008.

I share it because it certainly can be applied to almost any democracy. Government is far from perfect, and far from flawless. We have to have some faith that those we elected, some of them or hopefully most of them, will, in fact, do what is best for the majority of the people the majority of the time.

It is a good read and worth reading multiple times. It is dead-on, yet as most will understand, not resolvable. We all have to do the best with "what" we have and "who" we have. That is not to say that what we have cannot be improved. If I thought that was impossible, I would find a rock and climb under it.

The CNMI is such a small microcosm compared to the USA. Everything is magnified here. If you watch Fox News you will note that the same issues are being debated daily: The price of gas and the price of energy. The economy of the entire world is being dictated by the gyrating cost of fuel.

The people in the U.S. do not like what has happened to them

any more than we do here. Fortunately, for them, they have more money and resources to throw at the problem. Fortunately, for us, it is a small geographic island. We do not have to drive very far to get to where we need to go, and the modest, mild temps are sustainable, most of the time, with limited power.

We all have to find alternative forms of energy so we are independent of those who would like to destroy the free world economically.

Hang tough! If only our leaders had/have the foresight to know where they are taking us and the repercussions of the journey!

Alan Stuart Markoff, DDS, MBA  
Chalan Kiya, Saipan

## Indigenous land and sea

Our forefathers lived on these islands since time begun over four thousand years ago. Although conquerors came and ruled these isles without their consent, it's equally clear that foreigners were after their own interests, from exotic spice to the use of religion to conquer the Marianas Archipelago. The combined ugly arrogance and obvious lack of respect for the indigenous people still ring loud today.

Never have I heard that they have given up the rights to ownership of these isles to any of the four conquerors. It is for this reason that Article XII exists under the Covenant Agreement and CNMI Constitution. Though our forefathers succumbed to submissive behavior, even with having to drown in the sea of humility, never once did they surrender ownership of our land and sea.

History has established that Chamorros are a seafaring people who traversed the open waters over five hundred miles out to fish for bigger catch. Our ancestors did so in their simple canoe in order to provide for their community. They employed traditional navigation to get to and from fishing grounds. Otherwise, they fished in the lagoon during inclement weather.

This historic fact, though riddled with arrogance and foreign domination, remains a traditional testament that hasn't changed through the years. The notion of the "we few" attempting to tell us what to do with our land and sea, peddling their much maligned plan to turn some part of the Northern Islands into a monument, must cease once and for all.

It's not surprising if this insidious design is the key to the back door for proponents of the monument to someday silently claim all that is found on land and sea to their benefit. What about the rights of the indigenous people to any harvest of minerals subsequently found within the planned monument? Mind you, we know what we want with what's ours so for once in your lifetime let the indigenous people dispose of what's theirs. Eh, you guys think you smart, but we are no dummy, braddah!

Candy B. Taman  
Former Member  
House of Representatives

## DEALING

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saipan.com



Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!






*Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼73
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼74

### Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲60 ▼54
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼75
Hong Kong	Showers	▲92 ▼80
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼76
London	Showers	▲75 ▼62
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲55 ▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼74
Osaka	Cloudy	▲89 ▼78
Paris	Cloudy	▲83 ▼69
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲91 ▼67
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼55
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Tokyo	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼71

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:03AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:58AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:29PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:25PM, TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough that extends from a weak circulation centered at about 6N136E runs to about 24N148E. These systems combined with low-level convergence west of the trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from the equator to about 20N between 130E and 148E. The showers and thunderstorms are near Yap, Palau and the Marianas. Low-level convergence coupled with an upper-level low centered at about 18N156E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of 20N157E. This area is west of Wake Island. Trade-wind convergence coupled with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 110 miles of a line from 9N155E to 9N163E north of Pohnpei and within 190 miles of a line from 4N161E to 5N169E. This second area includes Kosrae.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:59AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:59AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	6:00AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00AM	6:46 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:15AM	4:52PM
Thursday	4:21AM	5:50PM
Friday	5:27AM	6:42PM
Saturday	6:29AM	7:28PM
Sunday	7:27AM	8:09PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## US deficit zooming to half-trillion as Bush leaves

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's budget deficit will surge past a half-trillion dollars next year, according to gloomy new estimates, a record flood of red ink that promises to force the winner of the presidential race to dramatically alter his economic agenda.

The deficit will hit \$482 billion in the 2009 budget year that will be inherited by Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain, the White House estimated Monday. That figure is sure to rise after adding the tens of billions of dollars in additional Iraq war funding it doesn't include, and the total could be higher yet if the economy fails to recover as the administration predicts.

The result: the biggest deficit ever in terms of dollars, though several were higher in the 1980s and early 1990s as a percentage of the overall economy.

Neither campaign is backing off campaign promises—McCain to cut taxes and Obama

to expand health and education programs—in light of the bleak new figures.

"We can't afford not to invest in some major initiatives such as health and energy and more tax cuts," said Obama economic adviser Jason Furman.

But Democrats controlling Congress suggest that may have to change once President Bush's successor takes office.

"Whoever becomes the next president will have a very, very sobering first week in office," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D.

McCain promises to renew the full roster of Bush tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 and add many more for businesses and upper income people who pay the alternative minimum tax. The Bush tax cuts expire at the end of 2010 and renewing them would soon cost well over \$200 billion a year. Eliminating the alternative minimum at the same time would cost almost as much.

Obama would repeal tax cuts

on wealthier taxpayers and investors but would leave most of the Bush tax cuts in place while

seeking additional cuts for senior citizens, the middle class and the working poor. And he

also wants lots of new spending for health care, education and many other federal programs.



Senate Budget Committee Chairman Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., right, accompanied by House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. John Spratt Jr., left, look over a chart giving the Bush administration medals for the highest budget deficits, Monday, July 28, 2008, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington.

## Oil prices above \$125 on Nigeria attacks

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose above \$125 a barrel Tuesday on supply concerns sparked by the sabotage of two oil pipelines by militants in Nigeria.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery added 33 cents to \$125.06 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midmorning in Singapore. The contract rose \$1.47 to settle at \$124.73 a barrel on Monday.

In London, September Brent crude gained 34 cents to \$126.18 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Monday's attack in Nigeria targeted two pipelines believed

to be owned by a unit of Royal Dutch Shell PLC and was the latest in a two-year campaign of attacks on the country's oil industry. Shell said a pipeline had been damaged in attacks and that some crude production had been shut down to prevent the oil from spilling into the environment. It gave no details.

"The militant attacks on Shell's pipelines are certainly supportive of oil pricing," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with consulting firm Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "Shell has not divulged the extent of the disruption so it's unclear how serious the pipeline attack is and

so the market is really only reacting modestly."

Shum said the militant attacks in Nigeria are keeping oil prices from slipping further on concerns that high fuel prices have hurt demand in the U.S.—the world's largest energy consumer—amid increasing uncertainty over the global economy.

"The real impact of these reported militant attacks in Nigeria ... simply prevent oil pricing from being weighed down too much over slackening oil demand in the U.S.," he said. "Pricing in the near term looks quite stable around the \$125 level."

## BankPacific promotes five key staff



Camacho



Potter



Cawili



McKinnon



Flores

The following well-earned promotions were announced by BankPacific President Philip Flores:

Barbara Potter has been promoted to Assistant Vice President/Loan Servicing Manager. She began her career with BankPacific in 2000 bringing and has over 25 years of banking experience in loans and operations.

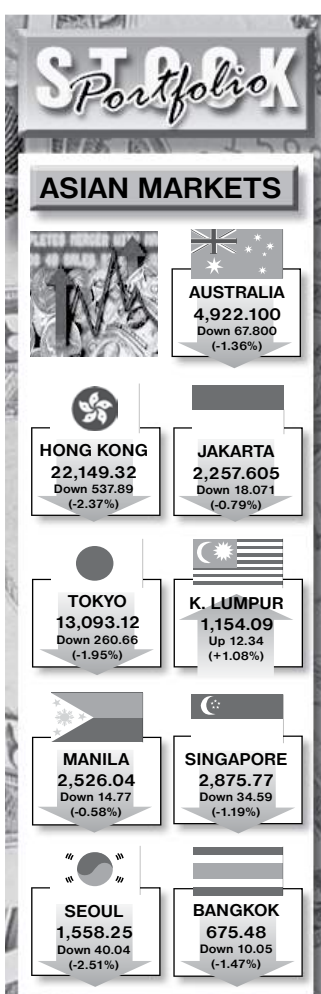
Ana Camacho has been promoted to Assistant Manager, Loan Servicing. She has been in the banking industry since

1983. Ana has held several positions in both operations and loan servicing. She joined BankPacific in 2003.

John McKinnon has been promoted to Manager, Consumer and Indirect Dealer Financing. John began his employment with BankPacific in 2007 as a Consumer Loan Specialist. He graduated from Father Duenas in 1992 and attended the University of Guam. John has five years of banking experience locally and in the mainland.

Norma Jean Flores has been promoted to Assistant Vice President/Compliance and Security Officer. She joined BankPacific in 1993. Norma has held several positions in operations and recently had oversight of the bank's Central Processing Center.

Florence Cawili has been promoted to Loan Operations Specialist II. She started with BankPacific in 2000 and has over 20 years experience in credit, collections and loan servicing.



MONEY MARKET	
Australian Dollar	1.0438
British Pound	0.5015
Canadian Dollar	1.0216
Chinese Renmbi	6.827
Euro	0.6351
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8013
Indian Rupee	42.692
Indonesian Rupiah	9125
Japanese Yen	107.385
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2585
New Zealand Dollar	1.3426
Philippine Peso	44.318
Singapore Dollar	1.3626
South Korean Won	1010.2
Swiss Franc	1.034
Taiwan Dollar	30.464
Thailand Baht	33.49

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

### West Coast dockworkers reach deal with shippers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The union representing thousands of West Coast dockworkers reached a tentative contract deal with shippers Monday that promises to keep ports running and avoid another blow to the U.S. economy. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union announced the six-year agreement following months of negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association. Neither side released details of the deal, which still must be ratified by union and PMA members. The contract covers more than 25,000 dockworkers at 29 West Coast ports.

### GM cuts shifts to curtail SUV, truck production

NEW YORK (AP)—General Motors Corp. said Monday it will cut shifts at plants in Ohio and Louisiana, eliminating 1,760 jobs, as part of the automaker's previously announced plan to reduce vehicle production due to weak demand for trucks and sport utility vehicles. GM spokesman Tony Sapienza said the Detroit automaker will eliminate one shift each at its Moraine, Ohio, SUV plant and Shreveport, La., truck plant, cutting production by about 117,000 vehicles. The Moraine plant will eliminate the second shift effective Sept. 29, affecting 1,000 of the plant's more than 2,000 hourly and salaried workers, GM said. At Shreveport, which employs nearly 2,000 people, about 760 will lose their jobs, Sapienza said.

### Stocks slide as financials again pull back

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street again surrendered to investors' anxiety about the financial sector Monday, sending the Dow Jones industrials down 240 points and back into bear market territory. The flight from equities sent investors into safe-haven bets like Treasury bonds. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 239.61, or 2.11 percent, to 11,131.08. Broader stock indicators also declined. The Nasdaq composite index also fell into bear market territory, shedding 46.31, or 2.00 percent, to 2,264.22. The Standard & Poor's 500 index declined 23.39, or 1.86 percent, to 1,234.37; it has been in bear territory for the past few weeks. Bond prices jumped as investors again sought the safety of government debt.

### Report says BP plant in danger of another accident

HOUSTON (AP)—Life-threatening safety violations continue to plague a Texas City BP refinery, leaving it susceptible to another major accident like the one in 2005 that killed 15 people, according to a report released Monday. The report was prepared on behalf of blast victims who object to a federal criminal plea deal with London-based BP PLC related to the accident. Engineer Mike Sawyer's report criticized BP for not conducting a detailed audit of the refinery, not making widespread improvements at the facility and for the plant's "abysmal safety record" since the blast, which includes three more worker deaths and several fires and chemical releases.



## Nation

# Bush OKs execution of ex-Army prisoner

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush on Monday approved the execution of an Army private, the first time in over a half-century that a president has affirmed a death sentence for a member of the U.S. military.

With his signature from the Oval Office, Bush said yes to the military's request to execute Ronald A. Gray, the White House confirmed. Gray had been convicted in connection with a spree of four murders and eight rapes in the Fayetteville, N.C., area over eight months in the late 1980s while stationed at Fort Bragg.

"While approving a sentence of death for a member of our armed services is a serious and difficult decision for a commander in chief, the president believes the facts of this case leave no doubt that the sentence is just and warranted," White House press secretary Dana Perino said.

In the military courts, "Private Gray was convicted of committing brutal crimes, including two murders, an attempted murder and three rapes. The victims included a civilian and two members of the Army. ... The president's thoughts and prayers are with the victims of these heinous crimes and their families and all others affected."

Unlike in the civilian courts,



This April 1988 picture shows Ronald A. Gray in handcuffs and chains, escorted by military police leaving a Fort Bragg, N.C. courtroom.

a member of the U.S. armed forces cannot be executed until the president approves the death

sentence. Gray has been on death row at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leaven-

worth, Kan., since April 1988.

Members of the U.S. military have been executed throughout history, but just 10 have been executed by presidential approval since 1951 when the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the military's modern-day legal system, was enacted into law.

President Kennedy was the last president to stare down this life-or-death decision. On Feb. 12, 1962, Kennedy commuted the death sentence of Jimmie Henderson, a Navy seaman, to confinement for life.

President Eisenhower was the last president to approve a military execution. In 1957, he approved the execution of John Bennett, an Army private convicted of raping and attempting to kill an 11-year-old Austrian girl. He was hanged in 1961.

The death penalty was outlawed between 1972 and 1984, when President Reagan reinstated it.

Gray was held responsible for the crimes committed between April 1986 and January 1987 in both the civilian and military justice systems.

In civilian courts in North Carolina, Gray pleaded guilty to two murders and five rapes and was sentenced to three consecutive and five concurrent life terms.

## Study urges revamping US security system

### McCain promotes drilling for oil off US coast

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)—Republican John McCain said Monday that drilling for oil off the U.S. coast is an essential part of any plan to lower gas prices and reduce dependence on foreign sources, and he criticized Democrat Barack Obama for opposing it.

"We all know that a comprehensive solution is wind, tide, solar, all the other things all of us believe in," McCain told reporters after touring San Joaquin Facilities Management, an oil company in the California desert that yields 1,100 barrels a day. "In the meantime, as we develop all of these alternate sources of energy, it will be vital that we continue oil production at a high level, including offshore drilling."

McCain called Obama the "Dr. No" of energy. But McCain once was, too.

Just last month, McCain reversed himself after years of opposition and called for lifting the federal ban on oil drilling off the U.S. coast. The Arizona senator promotes energy development as a way to boost the economy, and a recent poll found many voters open to offshore drilling as a way to ease gas prices.

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a report aimed at the next president, security specialists are proposing a vast overhaul of the U.S. security system, declaring it problem-plagued.

The report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, said frequent feuding and jurisdictional disputes among Cabinet secretaries and other agency heads force the president to spend too much time settling internal fights. Time and money are wasted on duplicative and inefficient actions, slowing down government responses to crises, the report said.

The president and his top advisers focus on day-to-day crisis management rather than long-term planning, "allowing problems to escape presidential attention until they worsen and reach the crisis level," said the report,

to be issued later in the week.

The study, mandated by Congress, was undertaken by the Project on National Security Reform. The research was conducted by more than 300 national security experts from think tanks, universities, federal agencies, law firms and corporations.

A final version with recommended reforms, including a proposal for new security legislation, is expected to be issued in October.

"We will approach whoever is elected before the inauguration and will be having discussions with campaign staffs between now and the election," James R. Locher III, executive director of the project, said in an interview.

"We will draft presidential directives that can be imposed by the new president immediately," Locher said.

## 'Man shot churchgoers over liberal views'

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—An out-of-work truck driver accused of opening fire at a Unitarian church, killing two people, left behind a note suggesting that he targeted the congregation out of hatred for its liberal policies, including its acceptance of gays, authorities said Monday.

A four-page letter found in Jim D. Adkisson's small SUV indicated he intentionally targeted the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church because,

the police chief said, "he hated the liberal movement" and was upset with "liberals in general as well as gays."

Adkisson, a 58-year-old truck driver on the verge of losing his food stamps, had 76 rounds with him when he entered the church and pulled a shotgun from a guitar case during a children's performance of the musical "Annie."

Adkisson's ex-wife once belonged to the church but hadn't attended in years, said Ted

Jones, the congregation's president. Police investigators described Adkisson as a "stranger" to the congregation, and police spokesman Darrell DeBusk declined to comment on whether investigators think the ex-wife's link was a factor in the attack.

Adkisson remained jailed Monday on \$1 million bond after being charged with one count of murder. More charges are expected. Four victims remained hospitalized, including two in critical condition.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### McCain has spot of skin removed from face

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)—Republican Sen. John McCain said Monday he had had a small patch of skin removed from his face and biopsied as part of a regular checkup with his dermatologist. "She said that I was doing fine," McCain, a three-time melanoma survivor, told reporters on a presidential campaign visit to an oil rig where he spoke briefly about his proposed energy plan. "She took a small little nick from my cheek, as she does regularly, and that will be biopsied just to make sure everything is fine." The Arizona senator underwent the procedure in Phoenix during a checkup he undergoes every three months. He sported a small bandage on his upper right cheek on his campaign plane but had removed it by the time he spoke with reporters.

#### Charges possible for La. cop accused of 9 shocks

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A grand jury in central Louisiana will consider criminal charges against a former police officer who is accused of jolting a handcuffed man nine times with a Taser before the suspect died, a prosecutor said Monday. Winn Parish District Attorney Chris Nevils said the grand jury was scheduled to convene Aug. 12 to begin hearing evidence in the death of Baron Pikes, 21. Pikes was repeatedly shocked with a 50,000-volt Taser as he was arrested on a drug possession warrant on Jan. 17. Former Winnfield police officer Scott Nugent has acknowledged using the device on Pikes, Nevils said.

#### Body found in debris from N.M. flash flooding

RUIDOSO, N.M. (AP)—Rescuers used pulleys Monday to help stranded residents and campers cross a rushing river where the body of a man reported missing in flash flooding was found near a bridge in a thicket of debris. The body was that of a 20-year-old man reported missing by his brother in this south-central New Mexico mountain resort area, said Ruidoso police Chief Wolfgang Born. His identity was not immediately released. The man was one of two people reported swept away after apparently losing his footing near the Rio Ruidoso as it spilled over its banks Sunday in flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Dolly.

#### 5 more arrested from west Texas polygamist sect

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Five indicted members of a West Texas polygamist sect turned themselves in to authorities Monday to face charges related to allegations of child sexual abuse. The five men were indicted last week with Warren Jeffs, the already-jailed leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The charges stem from a state investigation into allegations that the sect forced underage girls into marriage and motherhood with much older men. State authorities raided the FLDS's Yearning For Zion Ranch in Eldorado on April 3.

#### Report says 1 in 4 US bridges needs upgrading

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—At least \$140 billion is needed to make major repairs or upgrades to one of every four U.S. bridges, transportation officials from states across the country said in a report released Monday. State officials said bridge repairs are just one element of a pressing need for more federal funding to improve the country's deteriorating transportation infrastructure. The report cited Federal Highway Administration statistics that 152,000 out of the nation's 600,000 bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. The \$140 billion price tag was derived by multiplying the total number of square meters of the problem bridges by the average cost per square meter—in 2006 dollars—to do the work.

#### Indictment for man suspected of Ill., Mo. killings

GALESBURG, Ill. (AP)—An indictment unsealed Monday charges a man suspected of killing eight people with one of the slayings, that of a 65-year-old who was beaten in the head with a blunt instrument. Nicholas Sheley is charged with kidnapping Ronald Randall, hijacking his truck, stealing his wallet and killing him June 28 in Galesburg. Judge Steven Bordner raised his bail from \$1 million to \$10 million. Police suspect Sheley also bludgeoned to death seven other people in Illinois and Missouri—including a 93-year-old man and a 2-year-old child—in late June. He's been charged in four of those deaths.



# Asia

## Beijing cites numerous Olympic threats

**BEIJING (AP)**—Just over a week before the Beijing Olympics, a militant Islamic group's claims of responsibility for bombings in China have fueled unease about security. The government has assured its people and the Olympic community that heavy security will ensure a secure games.

But its clampdown has smothered a broad array of groups, many with grievances against the government but without a history of violence.

Among the potential troublemakers Chinese security specialists have identified are Tibetan separatists, who staged occasionally violent protests last spring; members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement and unemployed workers.

Stirring the latest concerns were videotaped threats purporting to be from an Islamic militant group. They surfaced last week in the name of the Turkistan Islamic Party—a group Chinese and Western terrorism experts say is an offshoot of a secessionist group from China's Central Asian frontier with ties to al-Qaida.

In it, hooded men stood in camouflage fatigues with Kalashnikovs and claimed responsibility for explosions in four cities in Western China in recent months, including two bus bombings last week



A Chinese paramilitary police officer asks two girls to move away from the fence outside the Beijing Olympic national stadium, known as Bird's Nest in Beijing, Sunday, July 27, 2008. AP

in Kunming city that authorities said killed two people and injured 14.

One militant, identified by the Washington-based monitoring group IntelCenter as commander Seyfullah, warned athletes and spectators "particularly the Muslims" to stay away.

"Our aim is to target the most critical points related to the Olympics. We will try to attack Chinese central cities severely using the tactics that have never been employed," he said.

Chinese police immediately played down the threat, saying the explosions in Chinese cities claimed by the group were not the work of terrorists.

Still Beijing is being emptied of political critics, underground Christian organizers and ordinary Chinese who come to the capital to protest local government injustices.

Plainclothes security agents surprised rights campaigner Hou Wenzhuo at a cafe on May 30, putting a hood over her head and holding her in an undisclosed detention center for 17 days.

Among their chief concerns during interrogations, she said, were plans for a "human rights torch relay" organized by an exiled Tiananmen Square democracy movement figure and whether Chinese at home might get involved.

### Canadian troops in Afghanistan kill 2 kids

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Canadian soldiers opened fire on a speeding car they feared was about to attack their convoy, killing a 2-year-old boy and his 4-year-old sister, officials said Monday.

NATO and the Canadian military said in statements that the troops near Kandahar opened fire Sunday after the driver ignored repeated signals to keep back. The Canadian statement

said the car came under fire after it drove within 10 yards of the convoy.

Militants regularly use civilian cars loaded with explosives in suicide missions against Afghan and foreign troops.

In Ottawa, Canadian Defense Minister Peter MacKay said the deaths of the two children was a "horrible circumstance" in which a "horrible decision had to be taken."

## Metal fragments found on Qantas jet

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A tank meant to supply passengers and crew with oxygen during an emergency may have exploded, ripping a hole in a Qantas jet that forced the plane to make a harrowing landing in the Philippines last week, officials said.

With no signs of a bomb, the investigation into Friday's emergency landing is focusing on the possibility that missing cylinder No. 4 may have blown a car-sized hole through the

fuselage of the 747-400 jet carrying more than 365 people.

The theory has been bolstered by the discovery of a valve and handle fragments in the passenger compartment, a few feet (about a meter) from where the missing cylinder was stored, Neville Blyth, a senior investigator from the Australian Transport and Safety Bureau, told a news conference Monday.

"We recovered ... a valve from an oxygen cylinder. It is likely that that valve is

from the missing cylinder," Blyth said, adding that the items will be tested.

He said it was possible that the valve was blown upward into the passenger cabin while the body of the cylinder went out the fuselage hole.

The 365 passengers and crew, who were not injured, reported hearing a loud bang before the plane suddenly depressurized. An eight-inch (20-centimeter) hole appeared in the floor, sending debris flying about the compartment.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Philippine bus collision kills 11

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A packed commuter bus strayed into an oncoming lane and crashed head-on into another bus on a highway south of Manila on Tuesday, killing at least 11 people and injuring 29 others, police said. The driver of the first bus may have been sleepy while negotiating the stretch of the highway before dawn in Pamplona township in eastern Camarines Sur province, which has been the site of many accidents, police investigator Allan Potong said. Eight people were killed on the spot, one passenger died on arrival in a hospital and two others died later, he said. It wasn't immediately clear if the drivers were among the dead.

#### Woman arrested after stabbing 7 in Japan

**TOKYO (AP)**—A Japanese woman went on a stabbing rampage at a crowded train station, wounding seven men after failing to slash her own wrist, police said Tuesday. The woman attempted to cut her wrist with an army knife at a shopping mall Monday night near the train station in Hiratsuka, 43

miles southwest of Tokyo, but someone bumped into her and she became angry, said police official Hidetoshi Yukitake. "She was screaming as she was slashing people at random," Yukitake said. None of the seven men stabbed were seriously injured, he said. The woman was arrested at the scene after being overpowered by onlookers. "She said she was frustrated. She was also angry at her father," Yukitake said. The stabbing was the latest in a spate of similar attacks in Japan.

#### Al-Qaida man reported killed in missile strike

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)**—Missiles hit a building in a Pakistani village on the border with Afghanistan on Monday, and intelligence officials said they were investigating reports that a senior al-Qaida figure was among six people killed. Pakistan's army said it had not confirmed the strike killed al-Qaida operative Abu Khabab al-Masri, described by Washington as an expert who trained terrorists in the use of poisons and explosives. The U.S. offers a \$5 million reward for information leading to his capture. A Pakistani military intelligence official said al-Masri's wife

told authorities that her husband died in the attack in South Waziristan.

#### 4 die as India, Pakistan trade fire in Kashmir

**SRINAGAR, India (AP)**—India said Monday that Pakistani troops crossed into its part of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir and opened fire. Indian troops returned fire, and at least four soldiers were killed. Indian army spokesman Brig. Gopala Krishnan Murali called the attack a "brazen violation of cease-fire." One Indian soldier died and "three or four" Pakistani soldiers were killed in "retaliatory fire" in the Kupwara area of the region, Murali said. Murali said that the body of one Pakistani soldier was still lying on the Indian side of the frontier and intermittent firing between troops continued.

#### Police link US man's computer to India bomb e-mail

**AHMADABAD, India (AP)**—Police raided the home of an American citizen in Mumbai, India's financial capital, and seized a computer from which an e-mail claiming responsibility for bombings that killed 45 people in western India

was believed to have been sent, officials said Monday. The 48-year-old American has not been detained and is not currently a suspect, police said. Anti-terror police also arrested an underworld figure in Ahmadabad with apparent ties to a banned Muslim group and were determining whether he had any connection to the weekend attack in the city, said deputy police chief Ashish Bhatia. At least 16 bombs tore through Ahmadabad around dusk Saturday, killing 45 people and wounding 161 others.

#### Thailand, Cambodia agree to pull back some troops

**SIEM REAP, Cambodia (AP)**—Cambodia and Thailand agreed Monday to pull back 1,200 troops stationed near a historic temple, but failed to end the long-running border dispute that has stirred up nationalist anger on both sides. Foreign ministers from the two Southeast Asian neighbors agreed to hold further meetings on how to demarcate a slice of land near the 11th century Preah Vihear temple, but no date was set for the next meeting. About 800 Cambodian troops and another 400 from Thailand stationed inside and around a pagoda near the temple complex will be pulled back.

## Floods, mudslides in Japan kill four

**TOKYO (AP)**—Four people died Monday in central Japan after being swept away in torrential rains that caused floods and mudslides and prompted an evacuation order for 50,000 people, officials said.

A woman, two girls and a boy were found dead after being washed away by a swollen river in the port city of Kobe, about 270 miles west of Tokyo, said an official in the city's fire department who asked that his name be withheld according to department policy. He said three others were rescued in serious condition.

In the city of Kanazawa, about 180 miles northwest of Tokyo, heavy rain flooded houses and led authorities to issue a mass evacuation order, said Hiroyuki Tatsuda, a city spokesman.

"We were inundated in just a couple hours this morning," Tatsuda said. "We haven't had such heavy rain for years."

The city issued an evacuation order for 50,000 people, but lifted it by mid-morning Monday after the rain subsided, Tatsuda said. More than 800 people had taken refuge at community centers. City officials were still assessing the extent of damage to houses and buildings.



## World

## WORLD BRIEFS

**Israeli premier doubts peace can come in 2008**

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israel's prime minister backed away Monday from a target date—announced with great fanfare at a U.S.-hosted Mideast peace conference last November—for reaching a deal with the Palestinians by year's end. Ehud Olmert said the sides will need more time to bridge differences over Jerusalem, long the toughest sticking point in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. At the same time, Olmert said Arab neighborhoods in east Jerusalem pose a danger to Israelis, hinting that Israel might want to cede control of those areas.

**Turkish officials link bombings to rebel Kurds**

**ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP)**—Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan served as a pallbearer at a funeral Monday for some of the 17 people killed by bombs in Turkey's biggest city, an attack the government blamed on Kurdish rebels who have targeted civilians in the past. The rebel Kurdistan Worker's Party immediately denied responsibility and attributed Sunday's attack to "dark forces"—hard-line Turkish nationalists who allegedly seek to foment chaos to strengthen the political influence of the military. No one has claimed responsibility for the bombings, and Turkey is home to a variety of violent groups besides the PKK, including Islamic extremists and alleged coup plotters with ties to the secular establishment.

**Belgrade fears violence from pro-Karadzic rally**

**BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)**—Right-wing Serbs called an anti-government rally for Tuesday night to protest the extradition of Radovan Karadzic, as authorities raced to whisk the former Bosnian Serb leader to a U.N. war crimes tribunal amid fears the demonstration could be violent. The rally organizer, the Serbian Radical Party, was busying Karadzic's supporters to the capital Monday from all over Serbia and from Bosnia, where Karadzic is revered by many as a hero who helped create a Bosnian Serb ministate after that country's 1992-95 war. "The protest is against the treacherous and dictatorial regime" of Serbia's pro-Western President Boris Tadic for arresting Karadzic, Radical Party leader Aleksandar Vucic said.

**Zimbabwe power-sharing talks break off**

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)**—Power-sharing talks between Zimbabwe's opposition and negotiators for President Robert Mugabe have broken off, officials said Monday. One said the talks stalled over Mugabe's insistence that he remain president. Two officials said the chief negotiators for Mugabe—Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa and Social Welfare Minister Nicholas Goche—were flying home. They were expected to consult Mugabe about their mandate, one of the officials said. Another official, in South Africa, said opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai had left the country and was driving to Pretoria, the South African capital where the talks were held, to consult with his negotiators.

## Paris eyes plan for drivers to share electric vehicles

**PARIS (AP)**—Parisians and tourists so eagerly embraced a citywide bike sharing plan launched a year ago that the mayor is setting his sights on a four-wheeled version: electric cars.

Under the plan, a driver could pick up a car on the Left Bank, snake up the slopes of Montmartre, then drop it off—and only pay for the minutes spent behind the wheel. But cars, even electric, are already proving more divisive than bikes.

With the price of gas steadily rising and Paris parking a permanent headache, some drivers are delighted by the new project. Others, though, see it as a step backward, fearing it could mean more traffic and dependence on cars in an already congested city.

The program dubbed Autolib' will launch in late 2009 or early 2010 with a fleet of 4,000 electric cars—2,000 within Paris and 2,000 in the city's suburbs.

Abeykoon Kapugoda, 50, a

maitre d'hotel who lives in the suburb of Villejuif, owns a car. But within Paris, he prefers to take the bus because he finds parking a headache.

"If it's easy to park at Autolib' stations, I would use that," he said, as he waited for his bus. "And I would definitely prefer to drive a car that doesn't pollute."

Car-sharing is a growing trend in many countries, with private companies such as Zipcar flourishing in cities in the U.S. and elsewhere as gas prices go up. Autolib', however, will be run by the city of Paris.

As with the Velib' bike-sharing program, Autolib' users would be able to rent cars from one of 700 planned lots, both under and above ground, and drop them off at any other lot. Organizers say it is too early to discuss details such as how the lots would be monitored or whether non-French driver's licenses would be accepted—or even how much the cars would cost.

## Female suicide attackers kill 57 in Iraq

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Suicide bombers, including at least three women, struck Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad and Kurdish protesters in the northern city of Kirkuk on Monday, killing at least 57 people—a brutal reminder that mass gatherings remain vulnerable despite vast improvements in security.

The attacks came even though the U.S. has stepped up efforts to recruit and train women for Iraq's police force and enlist them to join Sunnis fighting al-Qaida. Insurgents increasingly use female bombers because their billowing, black robes easily hide explosives and they are less likely to be searched.

U.S. military figures show at least 27 female suicide bombings this year, compared with eight in 2007.

Monday's attacks tapped into two different sets of fears.

The three nearly simultaneous bombings in Baghdad undermined public confidence in recent security gains that have tamped down sectarian bloodshed. The attack in Kirkuk, 180 miles to the north, showed that ethnic rivalries can turn into mass slaughter in a city that is home to Kurds, Turkomen, Arabs and other minorities.

The U.S. military blamed al-Qaida in Iraq for the Baghdad bombings. It was still investigating the Kirkuk attack, underscoring the more complicated nature of the tensions there. But city police spokesman Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qadir said the terror network was behind that attack as well.

The Baghdad bombings left piles of rubble and shattered glass on the streets alongside crumpled cars and sandals from panicked pilgrims, many of whom had slept at rest areas before rising at dawn to begin their annual march to the golden domed shrine of Imam Moussa al-Kadhimi.



A child injured in a bomb attack is carried by a man inside a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, July 28, 2008. AP

## Report: Torture widespread in Palestinian jails

**RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)**—One detainee told of being beaten with pipes and having a screwdriver rammed into his back. Another said interrogators tied his hands behind his back then lifted him into the air by his bound wrists.

Two human rights groups on Monday decried widespread torture of political opponents by bitter Palestinian rivals Hamas and Fatah, and Associated Press interviews with three victims and a doctor backed the reports of abuse.

The findings emerged as the two sides carried out fresh arrest sweeps in the West Bank and Gaza—highlighting deep tensions in the Palestinian territories after a flare-up in violence over the weekend.

In the West Bank on Monday, the security forces of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rounded up more than 50 suspected Hamas supporters, including mosque preachers and intellectuals, in retaliation for a similar sweep of Fatah loyalists in Gaza, set off

by a bombing that killed five Hamas members Friday.

Hamas violently seized power in Gaza in June 2007, leaving the Islamic militant group in charge of the coastal territory and Abbas' forces controlling the West Bank.

The Palestinian human rights group Al Haq said Monday that arbitrary arrests of political opponents have been common since Hamas' takeover of Gaza, with each side trying to defend its turf.

"Arrests for political reasons

haven't stopped for a second," Al Haq director Shawan Jabarin told reporters. He estimated that before the latest sweeps, more than 1,000 people had been seized by each side.

An estimated 20 to 30 percent of the detainees suffered torture, including severe beatings and being tied up in painful positions, said Jabarin, citing sworn statements from 150 detainees.

He said three died in detention in Gaza and one in the West Bank.

## In the iconic pubs of Britain, ale sales are ailing

**LONDON (AP)**—Raise a pint to the old British pub: Dark-paneled, fixed on the English landscape—and, more than ever these days, empty.

Beer sales in British pubs have slumped to their lowest level since the Great Depression, including a 10 percent drop in pints drawn in just the past year, an industry group said Monday.

Blame a nationwide smoking ban that took hold last year, rising costs, competition from supermarkets and an economic downturn that has more Britons tossing back a Newcastle or Boddingtons at home and skip-



A pint of beer is pulled in a pub in London, Monday, July 28, 2008. AP

ping the local watering hole.

"I used to go two or three times a week after work, but now I just stay at home and go once every now and again," said Chris Hanson, 43, a carpenter heading to a grocery in the Camden neighborhood of London.

"I do more drinking at home now than at the pubs. They're more for special occasions since it's becoming so expensive," he said.

Beer sales in pubs for April through June were down nearly 5 percent from the same period a year ago, the British Beer and Pub Association said in its quarterly Beer Barometer report.



## Campus Life

# The odd world of e-school teachers

By IAN SHAPIRA  
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—For Trinity Wilbourn, teaching high school via the Internet offers a heartening and maddening prism into the teenage mind-set.

Sitting one day at her home office overlooking a golf course, the Prince William County, Va., teacher received a snarky comment in all capital letters from a devil-may-care summer school student. But the next moment, she marveled at another male student's frank e-mail: "(W)hen I first went to high school, I did not know who I was for awhile. ... I tried being someone I could not be."

"I feel like, what kind of guy is going to say that out loud in his class?" Wilbourn said.

Educators who supplement or replace their day jobs with online teaching for local public schools are discovering that the perks of working at home come with hurdles: grappling with awkward or confusing lines of communication with their pupils; gauging student performance without seeing facial expressions; and struggling to withstand the urge to check e-mails from students during weekends.

Online courses, mostly in high schools, have proliferated in recent years despite debate about their effectiveness compared with face-to-face instruction. The number of times students enrolled in distance education courses connected with public schools (using Internet, two-way video or other technologies) rose from about 317,000 in 2002-03 to more than 506,000 in 2004-05, the National Center for Education Statistics reported in June.

That's a 60 percent increase. In at least 66 percent of the cases, the report says, students earned credit with a passing grade.

Such students could be taking advanced courses unavailable at local schools, fulfilling graduation requirements or pursuing online schooling for other reasons. Prince William's Virtual High, for instance, is open to all students enrolled in a regular high school and rising ninth-graders; it also accepts some home-schooled students.

Competition for online teaching jobs, even those that are part-time, can be intense. Many school systems are willing to finance a limited number of courses and teachers.

"We don't have much turnover at all. People do randomly send in their resume, but I am not able to offer much opportunity," said Gina Jones, administrative coordinator of Prince William's Virtual High, which has about 17 teachers, nearly half of whom work only at home and don't need regular classroom jobs.

Teachers who want full-time online jobs with benefits can work in some statewide programs, which can draw students from anywhere in the country or world. Virtual Virginia recently enrolled a student from Shanghai for Advanced Placement English. Jobs in the state-funded program, which has nearly 40 teachers and offers annual salaries of nearly \$40,000, are highly coveted. "We'll have three openings next year, and I expect to get hundreds of applications," said program director Cathy Cheely. "People are intrigued and realize it's pure teaching—you're not worrying about cafeteria duty."

The typical day for online teachers entails sitting down at a computer during "office hours"—four hours a day in the summer, one to two in the fall and spring—and answering student questions through e-mail, instant messages or phone calls. They grade assignments and call parents. They often proctor major tests in a school building.

At her three-bedroom home in Manassas Park, Wilbourn, 28, a part-time English teacher, sat cozily at her desk, on a fake-fur-covered seat, as she spent the day e-mailing summer school students and grading their work. She chatted with her interloping toddlers and her husband, Michael, a regular teacher. The faintappings on her Apple keyboard were joined every so often by the thwacking of golf balls at General's Ridge Golf Course.

On her computer, she saw a comment on a class discussion board that slightly peeved her. Her fingers hovered over the keyboard, poised to reply to a student's comment. "This is good," she said. "I can edit my thoughts."

Wilbourn, who is paid \$300 a student per course, figures her family does decently. She reasons that her husband is a full-time teacher; that she does not pay for a car or high gas prices; that she can work two other jobs as an online college teacher and an independent distributor for Shaklee, a nutritional and cleaning products company; and that she can watch her kids instead of sending them to a pricey day care.

"My husband and I don't want to be working 9-to-5. We are doing a somewhat entrepreneurial model," she said, glancing up at her desk wall, on which are



Trinity Wilbourn, who teaches online for Prince William County, Va., takes a break with son Malachi, 2. One of 17 teachers who work for the county's Virtual High, Wilbourn finds online teaching inspiring and occasionally frustrating.

posted aphorisms and a self-described "Trini-tree" pyramid chart of Shaklee distributors.

Protracted e-mail conversations about grades and homework can be tricky, said Amy Bianco, 40, a Prince William online math teacher, who started in the field several years ago because it allowed her to spend

more time with family.

One day, while watching her children and husband, a middle school teacher, tussle in the pool, Bianco sat at the living room table, shaking her head at her laptop. A summer school student e-mailed asking to submit an assignment late because the deadline coincided with a

tutoring appointment.

"What do I say to this kid?" she asked. "You've got to be careful with these kids because you give them an inch, they'll take a mile."

She typed out a diplomatic response. Then a couple of students instant-messaged her, asking why they had what appeared to be zeroes on an assignment. "Hi Sarah, I have not graded the (module) 5 discussion forum yet," she wrote, slightly irked. Then: "Hi Joseph, I haven't graded them yet!"

Bianco wondered why Joseph had not been turning in assignments. She checked the course's online records to see how often he was logging on and saw that he hadn't completed his orientation assignments. "Before I make a phone call home, I want to get his side," she said. "But the worst part is that I can't see him and I can't look him in the eyes. Here, he has a chance to ignore my e-mails or (instant messages)."

She wrote: "Joseph, I was looking over our grades and I noticed that you are missing the module 1 and 3 activities. Is there a reason they were not submitted? Mrs. B."

The response, it's safe to say, was imperfect: "ok i wasnt sure cus i tried the best i could on it cus i just don fully understand exactly what there asin most of the time so i jus do the best i can with what i no so ya."

Bianco laughed and chalked up the poor writing to different generational expectations. "Joseph, When you are having trouble understanding the material, please contact us and ASK questions!" she wrote. "This is what I am here for!"

She crunched her knuckles and continued typing her message.

## Where's the party at? Univ. of Florida, study says

**GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)**—The University of Florida can raise a glass to another national title—best party school in the country. The Gators, known for wild celebrations following national championships in football and basketball, wrested the party title away from West Virginia University and beat out the University of Mississippi and Penn State University, in the Princeton Review survey of 120,000 students released Monday.

The university has made the top 20 party school list for the past 15 years, but has never been No. 1.

Freshman Allison Belanger, a journalism and political science major, said she's only been on campus for a few weeks but already has had no problem finding a party.



In this April 2, 2007 picture provided by the University of Florida, a University of Florida student attempts to climb a greased light pole among a crowd of fans in the streets of Gainesville, Fla. moments after the men's UF basketball team won its second consecutive championship win.

"All I have to do is leave the dorm," said Belanger, 17. "A lot of people study hard and

party hard."

A university spokesman said the party school reputation

comes from the school's athletic successes. The Gators won two national basketball championships in 2006 and 2007 and one national football title at the end of the 2006 season.

"The fact that we have three national championships in two years is probably a major contributing factor," spokesman Steve Orlando said. "We know our students like to have a good time."

He defended the school's academic climate, noting Florida's incoming students have a weighted grade-point average of 4.1 and an average SAT score of 1,300.

Florida also came in first this year in the categories of students who study the least and students who pack the stadiums.

Joseph Milano, 21, a finance

major from Palm Harbor, said a mostly young student body of 51,000 students and successful athletic programs make it easy to party.

"With a lot of people on campus, fun things happen," he said.

Chris Hickox, 22, of Fort Lauderdale, said he is working hard to try to get into veterinary school, so he doesn't have a lot of time to celebrate.

"We do party and have a good time, but I have to study or my Dad will kill me," he said.

The annual rankings also list the nation's "Stone-Cold Sober Schools." Topping that list was Utah's Brigham Young University for the 11th consecutive year.

The Princeton Review's annual guide, "The Best 368 Colleges," also ranks schools on scores from 60 to 99 based on admissions, financial aid, and a new category called the Green rating, which surveys colleges

in part on their environmentally friendly practices.

The book has 62 categories in all, including: Best Professors, Middlebury College in Vermont, Tastiest Campus Food, Wheaton College in Illinois, and Best Dorms, Loyola College in Maryland. The students happiest with their financial aid attend Princeton University, which also tops the list for the most beautiful campus, the survey found.

The Princeton Review says the guide to the best schools is intended to help applicants who can't visit every school in person. "In our opinion, each school in this book is first-rate academically," said Robert Franek, the book's author.

The Princeton Review is a New York company known for its test preparation courses, educational services and books and is not affiliated with Princeton University.



## Life &amp; Style

## Network news presence at Beijing is NBC, the rest

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC News could rent a small plane just for the top news personalities going to Beijing to cover the Olympics: Brian Williams, Tom Brokaw, Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira, Ann Curry, Lester Holt, Richard Engel, and Kevin Tibbles among them.

CBS considered sending Harry Smith, but decided against it and is sending Barry Peterson. Weekend anchor David Muir is ABC's biggest name heading to Asia. Dana Lewis is Fox News Channel's lone representative. CNN is largely handling the story through its Beijing bureau, keeping frequent-flier Anderson Cooper at home.

Guess which network's sports division paid nearly \$900 million for the rights to televise the Olympics?

The rapid change occurring in China means there's likely to be more news beyond sports in Beijing than most Olympics. Television news organizations face many challenges, including the decision of how much money and personnel they should devote to an event where NBC has the insider's edge.

"It makes our lives difficult," said Paul Friedman, senior vice president of CBS News. "But what we'll do is what everyone in this situation does. You go and look for the stories around the Olympics that you can get access to and this time



Security personnel dressed in Beijing Olympic uniform check on journalists entering the entrance of the Main Press Center inside the Olympic Green in Beijing, Monday, July 28, 2008. AP

## In defense of celebrity magazines

By RENE LYNCH  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**HOLLYWOOD**—There are many photos out there purporting to show Mischa Barton's lumpy, bumpy, cellulite-riddled bottom, and I love poring over them. The photos of an "exhausted" Heather Locklear before she was carted off? Love them too.

I could stare for hours at the fine lines around Angelina Jolie's eyes. (C'mon. Didn't you see the cover of last week's People magazine?) And photos speculating whether Britney Spears and Uma Thurman are sporting baby bumps or have been making too many late-night Haagen-Dazs runs?

More, please!

I don't need a psychiatrist in wingtips to tell me why I love celebrity gossip rags. I love seeing the rich and famous taken down a notch or 10 because it just makes me feel better about

myself. It's that simple.

Actually, I feel like I'm just getting what's due me after years spent growing up reading magazines such as Seventeen and then graduating to the likes of Vogue, Elle, Glamour and Cosmo. I'd compulsively turn the pages, completely captivated by one gorgeous image after another. I knew I could never, would never, look like that. So why bother?

But thanks to the no-holds-barred "reporting" done these days in the celebrity world, I actually get to see what Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Moss and Madonna look like without makeup—and without Photoshop. I've learned that Heather Locklear's life isn't as perfect as it seems, and neither is Salma Hayek's. That Britney and Uma can look like everyone else in their bathing suits. And that Mischa has cellulite on her butt.

Pass the Haagen-Dazs, Uma.



around they may be as interesting as the Olympics themselves."

First, they must get to the stories. News organizations have complained for months about the difficulty in dealing with Chinese authorities unused to the concept of a free press. Several weeks ago a reporter from a German television station that had rights to the games had police stop a live interview on the Great Wall of China.

Broadcasters were given the commitment that they will be able to operate freely and without severe restrictions. Whether that will happen remains a mystery, said John Barton, director of sport for the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union.

As has often been the case in Chinese history, Tiananmen Square is a symbol. The Chinese first closed it to media, then said it will only be open for certain hours. Helicopters are banned from flying over the landmark to film the marathon.

NBC would like to see more openness, but is continuing discussions with Chinese authorities, said Dick Ebersol, chairman of NBC Universal Sports.

"China's new to the world in terms of any level of openness," Ebersol said. "It's really a whole new thing for them. I clearly see in the seven years that we've been in business with them, I clearly see change. I think it's a whole kind of learning experience for them."

NBC is ready to cover stories as they come up, but "we're not going to cavalierly ... blow out sporting events to show news," Ebersol said.

NBC's biggest news presence will be on the "Today" show, which will bring its full team of Lauer, Vieira, Curry and Al Roker. The morning show will broadcast from the Olympic Green, which gives easy access to athletes, said Steve Capus, NBC News president, who will also be there.

"If you're a journalist in 2008, you want to be in Beijing to watch how China handles hosting the these Olympic games," Capus said. "I think it's a fascinating story."

Williams will anchor some "Nightly News" broadcasts from China and Brokaw will contribute historical vignettes. Because China is 12 hours ahead of the eastern U.S. time zone, Williams will do "Nightly" at dawn while "Today"

is operating at sundown.

As a rights-holder, NBC is "uniquely positioned" to cover stories, Capus said. It's not something new; the recent death of Jim McKay was a reminder of how ABC was best in place to cover the kidnapping and murder of Israeli athletes in 1972.

"We're going to have access to certain areas that aren't otherwise available," he said. "That goes with the territory and we look forward to it."

Besides those competitive disadvantages, rival networks have to decide how much time and money they want to spend covering Olympic games that are unfolding on NBC, effectively promoting it. They won't admit it, but that's partly why other networks aren't sending anywhere near the a-list talent or numbers that NBC is sending.

Judging from past Olympics, ABC News hasn't been too hindered by other rightsholders in covering news events, said Chuck Lustig, the network's director of foreign news coverage. There almost always turns out to be stories no one expects, like doping scandals.

"My job is to cover the news no matter where it is, no matter who has the rights," Lustig said.

Networks have used the games as a starting off point for other stories about China, said Jaime FlorCruz, Beijing bureau chief for CNN. The air quality problems in Beijing is one clear example; some athletes and officials are worried about this being a problem at the Olympics, giving reporters the chance to explore the consequences of unbridled growth.

ABC's Bob Woodruff, who began his journalism career as a translator for CBS News during the Tiananmen Square uprising, is doing a documentary on China's relationships with other countries. It will air on Aug. 6 in prime-time, two days before the Beijing opening ceremonies.

"It has just whetted the appetite of our editors who assign the stories and also our viewers, who are curious about what is going on here," FlorCruz said. "We end up doing more stories about China in general. We don't compete with NBC directly. It spills over. If you look at it in a big-picture way, it's not just the rightsholders who will benefit from the attention the games generate."



# Columnist Robert Novak diagnosed with brain tumor

**BOSTON (AP)**—Conservative political commentator Robert Novak announced Monday he has been diagnosed with a brain tumor, less than a week after he struck a pedestrian with his Corvette and drove away.

Novak, 77, fell ill on Cape Cod this weekend while visiting his daughter and was rushed to Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he said he was diagnosed Sunday with the tumor.

"I will be suspending my journalistic work for an indefinite but, God willing, not too lengthy period," Novak, editor of the Evans-Novak Political Report, said in the statement released by his publisher, Eagle Publishing.

Novak has been a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times for decades. His assistant, Kathleen

Connolly, told the newspaper that doctors had not yet done a biopsy to determine if the tumor was malignant.

She said Novak was alert and talking in the hospital's intensive care unit. Novak's office refused further comment to The Associated Press, other than to confirm the comments on the newspaper Web site.

Hospital spokesman Kevin Myron confirmed Novak was a patient, but said Novak requested that no further information be released.

Last week, Novak was given a \$50 citation after he struck a homeless man with his black Corvette in downtown Washington. Novak kept going until he was stopped by a bicyclist, who said the man was splayed

on Novak's windshield.

Dr. Lynne Taylor, a neuro-oncologist at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, said residents at the hospital are taught to check for brain tumors in patients who report having a recent car accident in which they didn't realize they struck something.

"People get spatial and visual neglect of a certain part of their bodies and they don't realize they've done what they've done," said Taylor, a fellow with the American Academy of Neurology.

Novak is best-known as the longtime co-host of CNN's "Crossfire," where he jostled with liberal co-hosts from 1980 to 2005, when he left to join Fox News as an

occasional contributor.

"I know Bob will confront this challenge with the same courage with which he has taken on the political establishment in Washington for decades," said House Republican Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Novak was criticized after he was the first to publicly reveal the name of CIA operative Valerie Plame in a 2003 column. His column came out eight days after Plame's husband, Joseph Wilson, said the Bush administration had twisted prewar intelligence to exaggerate the Iraqi threat.

House Republican Whip Roy Blunt, of Missouri, said Novak's record of reporting and commenting on American elections "has never failed to demonstrate keen insight and a



Robert Novak at a party marking the 40th anniversary of Novak's newspaper column at the Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C. in this June 2003 file photo.

## Gizmos to make it up close and personal at Games

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—As an archery contender at the Summer Olympics lines up a shot, an American TV viewer sits squarely in the bull's-eye. When the arrows fly in Beijing, the view from tiny high-definition cameras is sure to jolt some folks right out of their recliners.

With the Olympics set to start Aug. 8, NBC is gearing up to provide 3,600 hours of coverage from 35 venues with nearly 1,100 HD cameras and an arsenal of digital gadgets that will not only make the games more fun to watch, but simpler to grasp.

"For us, it's all about making sports easier to understand," says David Neal, NBC's executive vice president in charge of Olympics coverage. "But the best technical innovations are the ones that take the viewer on a magic carpet ride. They transport the television viewer out of their easy chair at home and give them a sense of what it's like to be on the field of play."

Neal recalls watching ABC's Olympics coverage in the 1960s and '70s and being fascinated by the technical innovations of the day, many of which were implemented by the legendary ABC Sports producer Boone Arledge.

"I remember as a kid watching and saying, 'Wow—how do they do that?' The Olympics were always the showcases for all of the newest technology. Boone set the gold standard."

Among the cool gadgets to be used by NBC in Beijing is the Dive-Cam, which consists of an HD camera that moves down a clear plastic tube, plunging alongside a diver as the athlete leaves the diving platform, and hitting the water at the precise moment as the diver.

Neal and another producer, Tommy Roy, devised the con-

traption on the back of a cocktail napkin. "We were trying to figure out how you can capture the madness of someone getting on a 10-meter platform and actually thinking that it's a good idea to dive off that thing, three stories up, and go into the water," he recalls.

Like many such innovations, the Dive-Cam was put together by celebrated camera inventor

as it rides unobtrusively along the black lane stripe at the bottom of the pool. "You see these unusual, Botticelli-like images of the swimmers," Brown describes. "These systems allow the viewer to see sights that have not been seen before, that are just ravishing."

Special camera heads will help viewers keep better track of swimmers by superimposing

of their power and speed," Brown says.

The network will also put to use a number of virtual enhancements, using GPS positioning and digital course maps to help keep viewers informed. Says Neal: "Instead of describing the course verbally, we'll use this mapping technology—something which today is instantly recognizable by consumers—to give a clear picture."

But most fun, perhaps, are the "point-of-view" shots taken by tiny HD "lipstick cameras" that place viewers right in the game alongside the athletes.

"There's a camera embedded in the weightlifting platform, shooting up through glass, to give you a 'bottoms up' look at a weightlifter," Neal explains. Others are located throughout the game venues, covering competitions such as field hockey, team handball and the high jump, where such a camera will be placed atop the crossbar itself.

"With lead athletes, the difference between clearing the bar and just brushing it can be a question of millimeters. Having that lipstick camera there can mean the difference between getting a medal and maybe not," Neal explains, noting the audience's ability to see just why an athlete failed to win a medal, thanks to the vantage point of the tiny cameras.

But using such technology provides more than a "wow factor," Neal says.

"Our mantra here is storytelling. We not only want to demystify a sport for the American audience, but we want to engage our audience in these sports," he says. "We can use the technology to make the sport easily understood. If we're really at the top of our craft, we'll engage viewers and get them to care about the athletes."



In this July 5, 2008 file photo, Michael Phelps swims to victory in the men's 100-meter butterfly final at the US Olympic swimming trials in Omaha, Neb.

Garrett Brown, creator of the widely used Steadicam floating camera system.

"Garrett's sort of like the Doc Brown character in the 'Back to the Future' movies," Neal says.

Brown also helped create the Moby-Cam, a small, submarine-mounted camera that tracks swimmers from below,

athletes' names on the action.

The Fly-Cam, another Garrett Brown invention, will be used to follow rowers and kayakers while suspended on a cable above the athletes as they paddle along their water course. "It's like you're in your own little airplane, flying along with these guys, giving you a sense

peerless political acumen."

"I want to join the many wishing Bob all the best as he confronts this challenge and a speedy recovery as he looks to resume his work," Blunt said in a statement.

Cyrus Freidheim, publisher of the Chicago Sun-Times, said Novak's work has been a

"source of great pride" at the newspaper.

"Sometimes terse, never dull, always insightful, Bob has been on top of the inside workings of Washington politics for decades. Our profession and his many fans worldwide wish him a speedy recovery. We look forward to his return," Freidheim said.

## Elvis anniversary: Karaoke heaven for singing fans

Karaoke and Elvis: a match made in Graceland and MySpace.

This year, the folks at Elvis Presley's famed former home have joined with the social networking web site MySpace for a nationwide "Elvis Week Karaoke Contest."

"We encourage folks to show us their style of an Elvis classic," said Kevin Kern, spokesman for Elvis Presley Enterprises, the company that runs tourist attractions at Graceland.

Presley died at Graceland on Aug. 16, 1977, and each summer the famous white-columned house becomes ground zero for a weeklong celebration drawing thousands of fans from around the world. The karaoke contest will get things going this year.

Participants can go MySpace's karaoke site at <http://ksolo.myspace.com/> and record one of three Elvis songs, "Hound Dog," "If I Can Dream" or "Suspicious Minds."

The winner performs at Graceland on Aug. 12 for fans gathered on a side lawn to

watch Elvis movies and listen to a band playing Presley songs.

"This is actually on the grounds of Graceland," Kern said. "You're singing at Elvis' house."

The karaoke contest is open to MySpace users across the United States and Canada. Contestants could number in the thousands.

"It's a little too soon to tell what numbers we're going to see, but we have good expectations," said Pedram Yasharel, product marketing manager for MySpace.

Recordings can be submitted until Aug. 4. Only those that draw at least 100 plays from MySpace users will be included in the competition.

The karaoke contest is for audio recordings only and participants are encouraged to perform in their own personal styles. It will be judged by representatives of Graceland, MySpace and Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

"It's going to be a tedious process," Kern said. (AP)



# 'Dark Knight' sailing into 'Titanic' waters

By JOHN HORN  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**HOLLYWOOD**—It's as hal-  
lowed a statistic to Hollywood  
as Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hit-  
ting streak is to baseball: "Tita-  
nic's" record box-office gross of  
\$600.8 million. All of a sudden,  
that mark might be within "The  
Dark Knight's" reach.

Distribution executives have  
started debating in earnest the  
potential total "Dark Knight"  
haul, which already has passed  
\$300 million and is projected to  
eclipse the \$400-million mark  
on Aug. 4 or 5. Although half  
a dozen industry insiders sur-  
veyed Monday said that "Tita-  
nic's" record appeared safe for  
now, the majority of distribution  
executives placed the film's  
probable final gross just past  
\$500 million, thanks in part to  
repeat business from across the  
audience spectrum.

That would make "The Dark  
Knight" the second-highest  
grossing film, ahead of 1977's  
"Star Wars Episode IV: A New  
Hope" (whose combined the-  
atrical releases total \$461 mil-  
lion) and 2004's "Shrek 2"  
(\$436.7 million).

In its second week of release,  
"The Dark Knight" grossed  
\$75.2 million, for total sales  
of \$313.7 million. The Warner  
Bros. sequel's performance  
was especially strong Sunday,  
with a gross of \$23.7 million.  
Rival distributors said that was  
evidence that older moviego-  
ers, families, Hispanic and  
black audiences were flock-  
ing to the film, because those  
moviegoers tend to turn out at  
the end of the weekend.

The film appears on track to  
pass the \$400-million mark as  
early as Monday, in which case  
"The Dark Knight" would pass  
that benchmark in its 18th day of  
release. The film to have passed  
\$400 million most quickly up  
until now is "Shrek 2," which  
took 43 days to get there.

"Titanic," which opened in  
1997 but did most of its busi-  
ness in 1998, was the nation's  
No. 1 film for 15 weeks in a  
row. Although it never sparked  
weekend business like "The  
Dark Knight," writer-director  
James Cameron's epic love story  
generated enormous repeat  
business from teenage girls.

"The Dark Knight" is also  
drawing a steady stream of re-



Actor Christian Bale, right, and his wife, Sibi Blazic, pose for photogra-  
phers during the Japan premiere of "The Dark Knight" in Tokyo, Japan,  
Monday, July 28, 2008

peaters; one rival distribution  
executive said his teenagers had  
seen the film three times. And  
that kind of can't-get-enough  
interest has helped start the "Ti-  
tanic" comparisons.

"We are honored to be con-  
sidered in that company," said  
Dan Fellman, the domestic dis-  
tribution chief for Warner Bros.  
"But I think 'Titanic' will hold  
that record for eternity."

Because "Titanic" came out  
when movie tickets were much  
cheaper (an average of \$4.69 in  
1998), it could still have sold  
more tickets than the "Dark  
Knight" even if the latter film  
ends up grossing more. The av-  
erage movie ticket probably will  
run about \$7 this year.

Regardless of inflation's  
effect, "The Dark Knight"  
is clearly the story of Holly-  
wood's summer.

"This has become a cul-  
tural phenomenon on so many  
levels," said Greg Foster, the  
president for Imax Filmed  
Entertainment, whose "Dark  
Knight" sales have surpassed  
\$16.4 million, a record. "Even  
my dad (septuagenarian movie  
producer David Foster) has  
seen it three times."

## George Carlin gets in one last laugh on death

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Just  
months before he died, George  
Carlin was looking into the  
face of death—and making it  
the butt of his jokes.

"You know what I've been  
doing? Going through my  
address book and crossing  
out the dead people. It gives  
you a feeling of power, of  
superiority, to have outlasted  
another old friend," Carlin  
says on what turned out to be  
his final comedy album. The  
recording, "It's Bad For Ya,"  
comes out Tuesday on Ear-  
drum Records.

Carlin died June 22 of a  
heart attack at 71.

In an interview four  
months before his death, he  
told The Associated Press he  
was particularly pleased with  
the material he was working  
up for the album and an HBO  
show that aired last March.

"Definitely some people  
who are close to me who have  
seen this show, and have seen  
a lot of the others, feel this is  
my best stuff yet," he said.

Among them was his  
daughter, Kelly Carlin Mc-  
Call, who said she was de-  
lighted to see the album mark  
a return to what she called her  
father's "playful goofiness."  
In recent years, she noted, his  
routines had seemed to get  
darker and angrier.

Not so this time, with Car-  
lin waxing on—with four-  
letter words in abundance—  
about the advantages of  
getting older.

"It's a great time of life,  
you get to take advantage of  
people and you're not respon-  
sible for anything," he says  
on the album. He adds that he  
discovered a popular pastime  
could be had gathering family  
members around and pretend-  
ing to have Alzheimer's.

"You say, 'Who are you peo-  
ple and where's my horse?'"

Although there will be no  
more new routines, Carlin  
is still around, thanks to his  
daughter and brother, Pat-  
rick, who spent a weekend  
earlier this month scatter-  
ing his ashes at his favorite  
haunts around the country.  
They stopped in front of the  
nightclubs he played in New  
York City's Greenwich Vil-  
lage and at a summer camp  
in New Hampshire where, as  
a child, he received a neck-  
lace for winning the drama  
competition. He was wearing  
it the day he died.

Accompanied by old  
friends from the neighbor-  
hood, they also stopped at a  
park on the edge of Harlem  
where Carlin grew up.

"The wind blew him  
around a little bit when Kelly  
threw his ashes," Patrick  
Carlin recalled.

## Spokesman: Winehouse to ER for reaction to meds

**LONDON (AP)**—Amy Wine-  
house was hospitalized Monday  
night for a reaction  
to medication but  
was expected to be  
released by morning,  
representatives for  
the Grammy-winning  
singer said.

An ambulance took  
Winehouse from her  
north London home  
to University College Hospital,  
spokesman Chris Goodman said.



Winehouse

"Doctors have advised that  
she will be kept under observa-  
tion overnight and is  
likely to be released  
tomorrow," read a  
statement released by  
Goodman and Tracey  
Miller, the 24-year-  
old's U.S.-based pub-  
licist.

It was the sec-  
ond time in as many  
months that Winehouse has  
been in the hospital. She was

admitted to a London clinic in  
June after collapsing at home,  
and father Mitch Winehouse  
said at the time she had devel-  
oped early stage emphysema  
from smoking cigarettes and  
crack cocaine.

Winehouse underwent a se-  
ries of tests but was discharged  
in time to perform at the Glas-  
tonbury music festival and cel-  
ebrations for former South Afri-  
can president Nelson Mandela's  
90th birthday.

The troubled soul diva became  
an international star after she  
released the Grammy-winning  
album "Back to Black" in 2006,  
but her music has been overshadowed  
by reports of drug use and  
run-ins with the law.

This year, she was investigated  
by police, although not charged,  
after a tabloid newspaper pub-  
lished a video that appeared to  
show her smoking crack cocaine.

In April 2008 she was cau-  
tioned by police for assault after

she slapped a man on a night out.

Earlier this month, her hus-  
band Blake Fielder-Civil was  
sentenced to 27 months in jail  
for assault and obstructing jus-  
tice. Fielder-Civil admitted  
beating up pub manager James  
King in a barroom fight in 2006  
and then offering him \$400,000  
to keep quiet about it.

Winehouse has repeatedly  
regaled concert audiences with  
appeals for the release of "my  
Blake."

## 'Extreme Makeover' house faces foreclosure

**LAKE CITY, Ga. (AP)**—More  
than 1,800 people showed up to  
help ABC's "Extreme Make-  
over" team demolish a family's  
decrepit home and replace it  
with a sparkling, four-bedroom  
mini-mansion in 2005.

Three years later, the real-  
ity TV show's most ambitious  
project at the time has become  
the latest victim of the foreclo-  
sure crisis.

After the Harper family used  
the two-story home as collateral  
for a \$450,000 loan, it's set  
to go to auction on the steps  
of the Clayton County Court-  
house Aug. 5. The couple did  
not return phone calls Mon-  
day, but told WSB-TV they re-  
ceived the loan for a construc-  
tion business that failed.

The house was built in Janu-  
ary 2005, after Atlanta-based  
Beazer Homes USA and  
ABC's "Extreme Makeover"  
demolished their old home and  
its faulty septic system. Within  
six days, construction crews

and hoards of volunteers had  
completed work on the largest  
home that the television pro-  
gram had yet built.

The finished product was a  
four-bedroom house with dec-  
orative rock walls and a three-  
car garage that towered over  
ranch and split-level homes in  
their Clayton County neighbor-  
hood. The home's door opened  
into a lobby that featured four  
fireplaces, a solarium, a music  
room and a plush new office.

Materials and labor were  
donated for the home, which  
would have cost about \$450,000  
to build. Beazer Homes' em-  
ployees and company partners  
also raised \$250,000 in contri-  
butions for the family, includ-  
ing scholarships for the cou-  
ple's three children and a home  
maintenance fund.

ABC said in a statement  
that it advises each family to  
consult a financial planner af-  
ter they get their new home.  
"Ultimately, financial matters



This Feb. 2005 picture shows the Lake City, Ga. home which was the subject of the Extreme Makeover  
television show.

are personal, and we work to  
respect the privacy of the fami-  
lies," the network said.

Some of the volunteers who  
helped build the home were

less than thrilled about the fam-  
ily's financial decisions.

"It's aggravating. It just  
makes you mad. You do that  
much work, and they just squan-

der it," Lake City Mayor Wil-  
lie Oswalt, who helped vault a  
massive beam into place in the  
Harper's living room, told The  
Atlanta Journal-Constitution.



# Sarkozy not ruffled by wife's nude shots

**PARIS (AP)**—French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy says her husband was not upset when he learned of all the nude photos she did during her modeling days.

Au contraire.

Bruni-Sarkozy told Vanity Fair magazine that she gathered up her past nude shots to show President Nicolas Sarkozy early in their relationship, telling him: "You must know that this is going to come out."

"He said, 'Oh, I like this one! Can I have a print of it?'" Bruni-Sarkozy was quoted as telling the magazine, which released an advance copy of the interview on Monday.

The 40-year-old model-turned-singer married Sarkozy, 53, in February after a whirlwind romance. Her new album, "Comme si de rien n'était" (As if nothing had happened), appeared in record stores this month.

Vanity Fair's September edition, with Bruni-Sarkozy photographs by Annie Leibovitz and an interview by special correspondent Maureen Orth, widow of late NBC newsmen Tim Russert, hits newsstands Friday.



In this July 14, 2008 file photo, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, left, waves as he stands with his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy at the Elysee Palace during Bastille day ceremonies in Paris.

## Mario Lopez replaces McGrath, Devon on 'Extra'



**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Mario Lopez may be doing a happy dance after being picked as the new solo host of "Extra."

Lopez, 34, who's served as a correspondent for the syndicated entertainment newsmagazine and co-hosted its weekend edition since January 2007, will take over from co-hosts Mark McGrath and

In this Thursday, April 10, 2008 file photo, Mario Lopez poses for a photo after rehearsals for his Broadway debut in "A Chorus Line" in New York.

AP

Dayna Devon, the producers of "Extra" announced Monday.

McGrath asked to be released from his contract to focus on his band, Sugar Ray, which is recording a new album, Telepictures Productions said. He continued to perform with the band while on "Extra."

Devon, with the show since 1999, will return to her "Extra" reporting roots with celebrity interviews and "celebrity lifestyle" stories and will serve as a substitute host for Lopez.

Lopez is a "rising star with

a winning personality both on- and off-camera," "Extra" senior executive producer Lisa Gregorisch-Dempsey said.

Things are going his way: The one-time finalist on "Dancing with the Stars" is appearing on Broadway in a revival of the musical "A Chorus Line" and was named People magazine's "Hottest Bachelor" of 2008. His early credits include the sitcom "Saved by the Bell."

Lopez is set to take over as anchor on Sept. 15 when the show begins its 15th season.

## Grammer hospitalized after feeling faint

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Kelsey Grammer, who had a heart attack last month, was hospitalized in New York after feeling faint. The actor's publicist, Stan Rosenfield, says Grammer checked himself into an undisclosed hospital over the weekend as a precaution.

The "Live with Regis and Kelly" show said Grammer, 53, canceled his Tuesday morning appearance. Nearly two months ago, the former "Cheers" and "Frasier" star suffered a mild heart attack in Hawaii, where he lives, while paddle-boating with wife Camilla.



Grammer

## Rebecca Romijn, Jerry O'Connell expecting twins

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It's twins for Rebecca Romijn and Jerry O'Connell, Romijn's publicist Lewis Kay said Monday.

The couple are expecting the babies this winter, Kay told The Associated Press.

They will be the first children for the pair, who tied the knot in Los Angeles in July 2007.

Romijn, 35, stars in the ABC comedy "Ugly Betty." She was previously married to John Stamos. They divorced in 2005.

O'Connell, 34, recently starred in the TV shows "Crossing Jordan" and "Carpoolers." His screen credits include "Stand by Me" and "Jerry Maguire."

In this Sept. 16, 2007 file photo, actress Rebecca Romijn, left, and her husband, actor Jerry O'Connell pose together at the 5th Annual TV Guide Emmy Party in Los Angeles.

AP



## Mystery of autism begins with deciding what it is

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I just finished reading your June 9 column and am shocked at what I read. Your response regarding autism was way off base. You said, "Autism is a mental health disorder... some people consider ... to be shameful."



*Dear Abby*

Autism is a neurological disorder, NOT a mental health disorder. Families who have a child with autism have many challenges ahead of them as they try to bring normalcy to their child's life and to their family. I am very surprised that you got this one wrong! Autism is reaching epidemic proportions. These families need support, not misprints.

MELISSA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

**DEAR MELISSA:** My thanks to you—and the many other readers—who wrote to correct me. After reading the letters and e-mail that came in, I spoke with William Barabesi, M.D., the chair of the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and co-director of the Mayo Clinic-Dana Child Development and Learning Disorders Program in Rochester, Minn., who told me that autism is often considered a mental health disorder because it affects behavior, cognitive ability and social skills. However, it is genetically predetermined—biologically based.

Experts clearly agree that autism is a neurologically based condition. The current criteria used to diagnose autism are contained in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, a publication of the American Psychiatric Association. However, this does not mean that autism is a "mental illness." Autism is most accurately described as a "neurodevelopmental disorder."

While there is no cure for autism, intervention and treatments are available. And for the most up-to-date information on effective therapies, interested parties should read "Autism: A Review of the State of the Science for Primary Health Care Clinicians" by going to [www.archpediatrics.com](http://www.archpediatrics.com) and searching for "autism."

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** How do you tell friends and family that you're not interested in being fixed up? I'm a male, in my mid-40s, happily divorced for many years and have no desire to remarry.

I raised my children on my own, have a good job and many friends, but no desire to get into a relationship that could lead to more of a commitment than I am willing to make.

My life is good, but I'm constantly bombarded with questions like, "When are you going to get married again?" or, "Why don't you let me fix you up? I have the perfect woman for you." I don't know how to respond to this constant badgering. Please advise.

THANKS BUT NO THANKS IN OHIO

**DEAR T.B.N.T.:** Continue telling these well-meaning people you are happy with your life just the way it is, and if they don't get the message, have a T-shirt made that reads "Been There, Done That." You should know, however, that men who are married live longer than those who are single, or perhaps it just seems longer. (Only joking!)

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Is there a rule of etiquette regarding how men should wear long hair? My boyfriend's hair isn't long enough to pull into a ponytail, but it's long enough that he is constantly sweeping or shaking it out of his eyes. If we were to go to a funeral or similar ceremonial (or formal) event, what should he do? I need some input.

HAIR-RAISING QUESTION

**DEAR QUESTION:** I have two words to offer: hair gel. Many products are available that will tame his mane, and you can find them at your nearest beauty supply store.

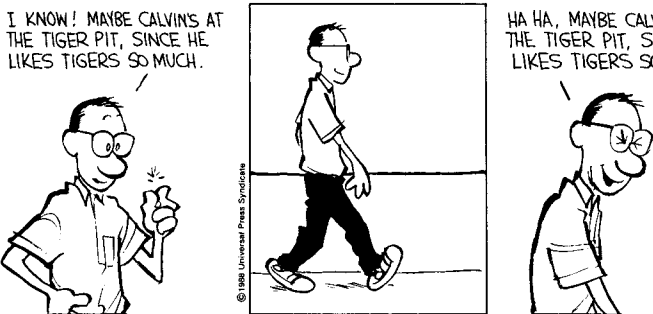
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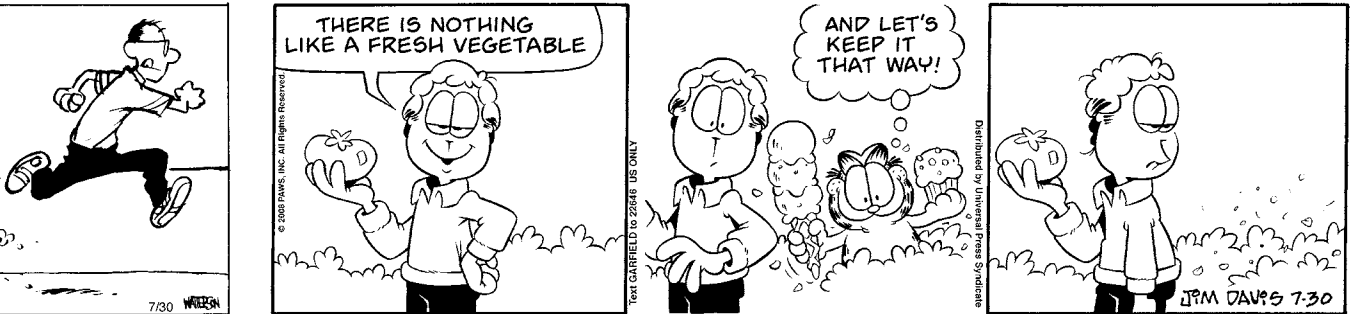


Pastimes

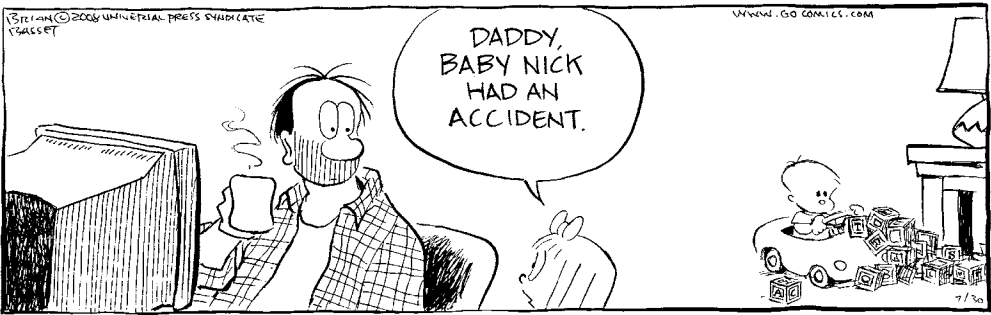
Calvin and Hobbes



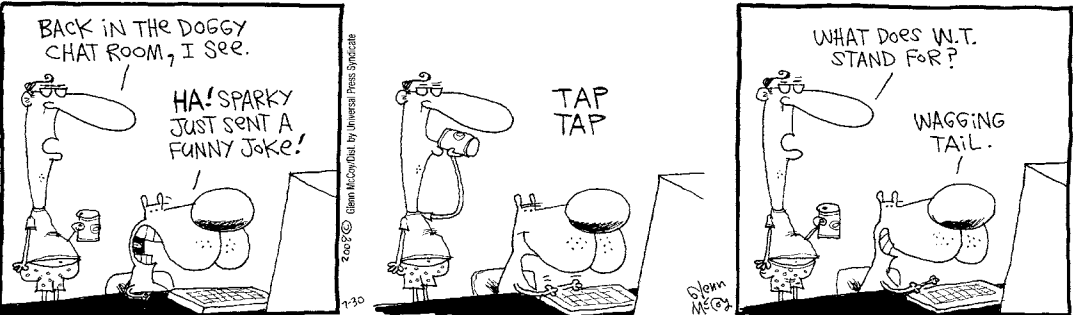
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The Duplex



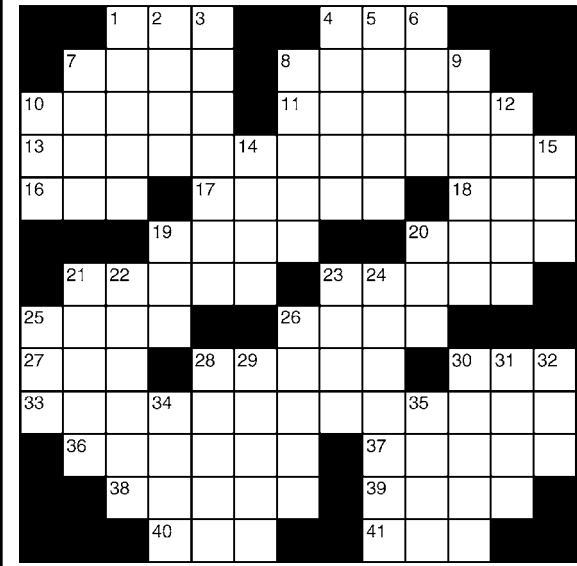
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 27 Hall-of-Fame Giant 28 Relaxing spa facility 30 Part of N.A. 33 Reveal-ing swimwear 36 Colorado city 37 Archie Bunker's wife 38 Local theaters 39 Staff member? 40 Away from NNW 41 Crafty

DOWN 1 Dean's longtime partner 2 "— want for Christ-mas ..." 3 "Street-car ..." 4 Paycheck extra 5 Islamic deity 6 Bellow 7 Informa-tion 8 Resent-ment 9 Rises 10 Food additive, for short 12 Loved ones 14 Neither black nor white? 15 Old airline initials 19 Triumphed 20 Pompous sort 21 "— go!" 22 Beat to the finish line 23 Hindu princess 24 Hears reveille 25 Ph. bk. listings 26 Oom-pah makers 28 Nose-in-the-air types 29 Coincide 30 Oneness 31 Location 32 Blond shade 34 Alterna-tives to 401(k)s 35 "Ameri-can —"

Solution time: 21 mins.

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STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jaime Pressly, 31; Hilary Swank, 34; Lisa Kudrow, 45; Arnold Schwarzenegger, 61

Happy Birthday: Change is upon you, so instead of playing it safe, try something new. You have natural talents you didn't realize you possessed. Enjoy your discoveries, experience and the knowledge you acquire this year. Dedication and persistence will pay off. Your numbers are 8, 17, 28, 33, 36, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An emotional matter will be blown out of proportion if you are inconsiderate. Do something to improve your looks, your mental outlook or your personal life. A short trip will lead to a valuable lesson. Love can conquer all. \*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone you respect will help you find solutions to problems you are facing. A love problem or difficulty with a youngster may occupy your mind. You aren't likely to be told all the facts, so ask direct questions. \*\*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let your emotions cut into your work time and productivity. Move forward with your plans even if someone makes last minute alterations. Focus on love late in the day and you will alleviate some of the stress you've been experiencing. \*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to your budget even if someone is begging you for financial assistance. Keep your assets tied up and offer suggestions, not cash, to anyone trying to make his or her problems yours. Facing issues head-on will have a lasting effect. \*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone will change his or her mind without telling you. Don't feel obligated to do something you don't care to do because of someone else's irresponsibility. Social and professional events will give you a chance to make new contacts. \*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone will offer you something you should not refuse. You may like to do everything to your own specifications but, the help given will turn into a valuable future contact for you. A secret involvement will turn out favorably. \*\*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can have lots of fun mixing and mingling but don't shun someone who depends on you or you will face emotional turmoil as the day progresses. A creative hobby could turn into a lucrative pastime. Travel or involvement in community or professional events will help you get ahead. \*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Dig deep and find out exactly what's going on. Secrets will lead to more deception and lies that cannot be reversed. You may have to change your plans in order to counteract what has been done. Do your best. \*\*\*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your heart and soul into collecting what's owed to you and paying off worrisome debts. A problem with authority or dealing with superiors will cause a major change in your life. Love and romance are evident but don't let it cost you. \*\*\*

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got the wherewithal to turn a little

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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into a lot. Safeguard your cash even if someone is begging you to put your money in a bucket with everyone else. Your better judgment will spare you and others much grief. \*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a change in your career or the way you take care of your health and well-being. Set up a diet or exercise program that will help you take control of your life and your medical future. Out of hard times, lessons are learned. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can rely on someone you consider very creative to come through for you. Advancement is heading your way and the chance to partner with someone extraordinary will open a window of opportunity for you. \*\*\*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, steady and patient with others (unless money is involved). You are strong-willed and creative and have great instincts.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			7	2	5	1	4			
	1							5		
5				7					2	
2				3					5	
1	7			8	2	9			6	
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Difficulty Level ★★★

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	5	9	1	4	6	7	2
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4	1	9	6	2	8	5	3	7
3	7	8	1	5	9	2	6	4
6	5	2	3	4	7	1	9	8
2	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	1
1	8	3	4	6	5	7	2	9
5	9	4	2	7	1	3	8	6

Difficulty Level \*\*

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA Solution: 8 letters

E N I L M A H I G H L A N D T  
R Z C A P I T O L D N I W H R  
I E L G O L D S T E I N O O E  
A L S U S W N W L H R M T C B  
F T Y E H A O A E E A S G K L  
F T K E M C H O T S A A O E I  
U A E E S P S N D F T I R Y G  
L B L O O M I N G T O N F U D  
B O A C O W A O G I U T A R T  
C O D U O O C R N E S R A W N  
B R N A E N O Y O E D P N I A  
T D I N Y B M T M E E A A E R  
S W Y N E T O I H H R R I R  
P A I R K O O C S E V A C A A  
P Y T N A S T N R I V E R S P

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Battle, Bloomington, Bluff, Capitol, Cave, City, Coleman, Como, Dale, Dayton, Fair, Falcon, Fast, Frogtown, Gilbert, Goldstein, Guard, Hamline, Highland, Hmong, Hockey, Lakes, Midwest, Mounds, Ordway, Pair, Parade, Parrant, Payne, Phalen, Pioneer, Rain, Ramsey, Rare, Rice, Rinks, Rivers, Robert, Saint, Schulz, Shepard, Sign, Thomas, Twin, Wind, Winter, Woodturner

Yesterday's Answer: Castella

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**WILL**      weigh  
**WILL**      whey

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# Angels win sixth straight over Red Sox, 7-5



**BOSTON**  
(AP)—  
Casey  
Kotchman

and Torii Hunter homered in a six-run sixth inning and the Los Angeles Angels improved baseball's best record with a 7-5 win over Daisuke Matsuzaka and the Boston Red Sox in the American League on Monday.

Kotchman's two-run homer gave the Angels a 3-2 lead. Hunter's three-run shot drove Matsuzaka (11-2) from the game and equaled the total number of runs he had allowed in his previous five starts. Matsuzaka hadn't given up a homer in any of those games.

## Twins 7, White Sox 0

At Minneapolis, Kevin Slowey pitched a six-hitter, Denard Span hit his first major league home run and Minnesota beat Chicago, striking first in this key AL Central series.

Slowey (7-7) struck out five and walked one, and the Twins moved within 1 1/2 games of the first-place White Sox. These teams play six more times this season, three more this week and all at the Metrodome.

## Orioles 13, Yankees 4

At New York, Adam Jones hit a grand slam and an RBI triple to back Jeremy Guthrie's strong start, leading Baltimore to a blowout that ended New York's 10-game home winning streak.

Kevin Millar hit a three-run drive in the second and Ramon Hernandez followed another homer off an ineffective Mike Mussina (13-7), who failed to last at least six innings for the



Los Angeles Angels' Casey Kotchman, right, is congratulated by teammate Chone Figgins, left, after his two-run, home run off Boston Red Sox starter Daisuke Matsuzaka in the sixth inning during their MLB baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Monday, July 28, 2008.

first time since May 24.

Guthrie (7-8) shut out New York on two hits through six innings.

## Indians 5, Tigers 0

At Cleveland, Paul Byrd pitched into the eighth inning and combined with Edward Mujica on Cleveland's four-hit shutout of Detroit.

Byrd (5-10) gave up four hits over 7 2-3 innings and didn't allow a runner past second base. The right-hander struck out four, walked three and earned his second straight win after going 1-7 over a stretch of 10 starts.

## Blue Jays 3, Rays 1

At Toronto, A.J. Burnett matched

a career-high with his 12th win, Matt Stairs hit a two-run homer and Toronto won for the sixth time in seven games, beating Tampa Bay.

Burnett, who also won 12 games in 2002 and 2005, allowed one unearned run and six hits in seven innings. He walked four and struck out 10. It was the 20th time Burnett has struck out 10 or more in a game, and the fourth time this season.

## Mariners 7, Rangers 5

At Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre homered twice, including the go-ahead shot in the eighth inning, to lead Seattle past short-handed Texas.

Rangers All-Star shortstop Michael Young could miss up to a week with a small fracture on his right ring finger, which he apparently suffered diving back to first base on a pickoff attempt in the first inning. Texas was already without third baseman Hank Blalock, who was scratched before the game with an upset stomach.

## Royals 4, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, Jose Guillen hit his first home run in more than a month and Alex Gordon also had a two-run homer for Kansas City, helping Zack Greinke get his first win in July.

Greinke (8-7) struck out a ca-

reer-high 11 in 7 1-3 innings and Kansas City earned its first win in four tries this year against the A's after being swept in the Coliseum from April 18-20. The Royals have won 10 of their last 17 in Oakland.

## Cubs 6, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, Derrek Lee doubled with one out in the ninth to score Alfonso Soriano and the Chicago Cubs rallied to beat the Milwaukee Brewers to take a two-game lead in the National League Central.

In the opener of a four-game series between the NL's top two teams, the Cubs prevailed in a back-and-forth contest to im-

prove to 32-26 at Miller Park since it opened in 2001.

## Marlins 7, Mets 3

At Miami, Dan Uggla and Cody Ross hit RBI singles to spark a five-run eighth inning, and Florida rallied for the win over New York.

With their 31st come-from-behind win, most in the National League, the Marlins closed within a game of NL East-leading New York. Second-place Philadelphia is a half-game out of first.

## Cardinals 12, Braves 3

At Atlanta, Albert Pujols drove in three runs, Braden Looper won for the first time in six starts and St. Louis beat injury-riddled Atlanta.

Joe Mather went 3-for-5 with a homer and two RBIs for St. Louis, which had lost six of seven. Ryan Ludwick also drove in two runs.

## Pirates 8, Rockies 4

At Pittsburgh, Ian Snell won for the second time in 18 starts, Nate McLouth homered and Pittsburgh rallied to snap Colorado's five-game winning streak.

Ryan Doumit and Doug Mientkiewicz each had three hits and two RBIs for the Pirates, who had lost three straight.

Pittsburgh also took advantage of nine walks to beat Colorado for the first time in five games this season. The Rockies had won nine of 10 since the All-Star break.

## Astros 5, Reds 4

At Houston, Roy Oswalt came off the disabled list and beat Cincinnati again, striking out five in Houston's win.

Oswalt (8-8) won his fifth straight start against the Reds and improved to 20-1 in 25 career outings against them, despite giving up a grand slam to Adam Dunn.

## Padres 8, Diamondbacks 5

At San Diego, backed by big home runs by Khalil Greene and rookie Nick Hundley, Greg Maddux snapped a career-high, 14-start winless streak by beating Micah Owings and Arizona.

It was the fourth straight win for the last-place Padres. The NL West-leading Diamondbacks had their three-game winning streak snapped.

## Giants 7, Dodgers 6

At Los Angeles, Jose Castillo hit a pair of RBI singles, Fred Lewis also drove in two runs and San Francisco beat Los Angeles to end a three-game skid.

Kevin Correia (2-5) won for the first time since April 10 against St. Louis after going 0-4 with a 6.65 ERA over his previous nine starts. The right-hander allowed six runs—four earned—and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings. He struck out five, walked none and hit a two-out, two-run single in the Giants' five-run fourth.

# Favre a no-show as Rodgers takes over for Pack



**GREEN BAY,**

**Wis.** (AP)—With the Brett Favre standoff still simmering, Aaron Rodgers took his place Monday as the Packers' new starting quarterback. Rodgers is trying to ignore what has become a daily soap opera involving the three-time MVP.

Favre is considering filing for reinstatement with the NFL and reporting to camp this week, a move likely intended to pressure Green Bay to grant him his release—something the Packers refuse to do—or trade him. The NFL had not received reinstatement paperwork from Favre as of Monday evening.

"I feel like this is really between Brett and the organization, and I'm just trying to stay focused on the things I can control," Rodgers said after the team's first practice at camp.

General manager Ted Thompson spoke twice with Favre on Saturday, for about 45 minutes each time. They decided it would be best for Favre to stay away from Green Bay for now.

"We still have not gotten to the

point where we agree on what the best option is," Thompson said Monday. "We have sort of agreed to disagree, and at that time he suggested he would probably delay coming to training camp for at least a couple of days to see how things worked out."

The Packers aren't going to allow Favre to play for an NFC North rival and aren't going to trade him without getting value in return. And Favre might not want to play for any of the teams showing interest, a group that includes Tampa Bay and the New York Jets. Thompson acknowledged talking to other teams.

"There have been some 'kicking of tires'-type conversations," he said.

Favre wants to be released, something Thompson opposes. The Packers hold Favre's rights until his contract expires after the 2010 season.

"A release just doesn't make a lot of sense from the Packers' point of view," Thompson said. "I've not heard many people say that's a good option—even people that would like to hang me in effigy outside."

The Packers have filed tam-

pering charges against Minnesota, suspecting Favre's latest flip-flop on his future was spurred mainly by interest from the Vikings.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is trying to help the sides reach a settlement.

"I'm glad to see that there are productive discussions and they're talking directly to one another," Goodell said from Buffalo Bills training camp Monday. "They're both important to the league going forward, and I'm hopeful they'll reach a proper resolution."

Goodell said the league was working toward a resolution of the tampering investigation.

Thompson said Favre wanted people to know he doesn't want to become a distraction.

"His reasoning behind that is he cares very much about this team, cares about these players, his former teammates, so he doesn't want to do anything to disrupt from that," Thompson said.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy downplayed that possibility.

"We talked about it as a team yesterday," he said. "I don't foresee Brett Favre coming in

here as a problem. Brett Favre is a big part of the Green Bay Packers history, and he may be a part of the future as we move forward, and that's an option that he has if he reinstates."

Thompson reiterated that if Favre were to return to the Packers, it would not be as the starter. Thompson also did not make much of the idea of an open competition with Rodgers.

"We have to continue down this path," Thompson said. "Where that leads, I don't know, but I didn't want to be dishonest or disingenuous and say 'OK, we can do this and then change our mind.' I think Brett Favre deserves more than that, so we told him the way we felt."

Veteran offensive tackle Mark Tauscher lauded Rodgers for his handling of an "uncomfortable situation."

"I think he's stepped in and really taken the reins of what we're doing here," Tauscher said. "I think everybody in this locker room has a lot of confidence in what he can do."

Wide receiver Donald Driver spoke to Favre over the weekend. "He's a legend," Driver said.



# Confident US arrives in China; LeBron practices



**MACAU, China (AP)**—Loaded with star power but wary of complacency, the U.S. Olympic basketball team arrived in China on Monday with a word of caution from coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"We haven't accomplished anything yet," he said.

The team is taking its Olympic preparations to this southern Chinese casino enclave. LeBron James joined the squad's first practice in Macau with his right ankle taped. He sat out the Americans' first tuneup against Canada on Friday with a sprain.

"Every time we step onto the court, we know we have the talent and we know we have the strength to go out and be the best team on the court," James said. "The chemistry right now is really good."

The Cleveland Cavaliers star said he will play in upcoming exhibition games in Macau and Shanghai.

The U.S. has clearly underachieved in international competition the past eight years. It finished sixth in the 2002 world championships and won the bronze at the 2004 Olympics and 2006 world championships.

Krzyzewski expects the competition in Beijing to be better than ever because "world basketball has gotten to another level."

"Many of the teams we face ... some will have a starting five of five NBA players," the Duke coach said. "World basketball is terrific and it'll be a tough challenge for us."

In Macau, the U.S. will play Turkey on Thursday and Lithuania on Friday. In Shanghai, they will

play Russia on Aug. 3 and Australia on Aug. 5.

The Americans open Aug. 10 against China, which features Houston Rockets center Yao Ming and Yi Jianlian, who recently was traded from the Milwaukee Bucks to the New Jersey Nets.

Asked about other contenders, Dwyane Wade pointed to defending Olympic champion Argentina and reigning world champion Spain.

But, the Miami Heat star added, "I'm not going to say anyone else (other than the U.S.) is a favorite to win."

The U.S. squad is similar to the one at the 2006 worlds, with Kobe Bryant and Jason Kidd the big additions.

U.S. team managing director Jerry Colangelo said that simply throwing together a collection of NBA stars doesn't cut it anymore. He noted that the nucleus of this team was assembled in 2006.

"The core players have been together for the last three years," he said. "In the past, all-star teams were selected. That was good enough, but that's not the case any more."

Team spokesman Craig Miller said Wade and the Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard are both healthy. Wade, who is recovering from left knee surgery, scored 20 points in a 120-65 rout of Canada. Howard is recovering from a stress fracture to his sternum.

**AP**  
U.S. Olympic basketball team players, from left, Carmelo Anthony, LeBron James, Dwight Howard, practice during a training session in Macau, Tuesday, July 29, 2008. The U.S. team will play the friendly match against Turkey and Lithuania in Macau.



## Warriors re-sign C Biedrins to 6-year, \$62 million deal



**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)**—The Golden State Warriors re-signed center Andris Biedrins to a six-year contract worth more than \$62 million

Monday, retaining another restricted free agent and possibly capping a tumultuous month for the club.

Biedrins averaged career-highs with 10.5 points and 9.8 rebounds with the Warriors last season, his fourth with the club that drafted him with the 11th overall pick in 2004. He also led the NBA in field-goal percentage, making 62.6 percent of his shots.

After fielding interest from at

least one Russian club this summer, the Latvian center elected to rejoin Monta Ellis, another restricted free agent who signed a six-year, \$66 million deal to return to Golden State last Thursday.

"We're extremely happy to have Andris under contract for many years to come," said Chris Mullin, the Warriors' top basketball executive. "He is clearly one of the top young centers in the NBA, and much like (Ellis), he has continued to improve every season. It's not easy to find quality young big men in this league, but we certainly think we have one of them, and he's only 22 years old."

Biedrins has improved

his scoring average in each of his seasons with Golden State, developing from a skinny rebounding specialist into an all-around player and a low-post scorer for the uptempo Warriors.

"The organization and fans have been terrific to me over the last four years, and I'm looking forward to building on some of the success that we've had in the last couple of years," Biedrins said.

The Warriors' latest signing might finally finish one of the busiest offseasons in club history. Golden State added three free agents and retaining three more in the four weeks since

Baron Davis announced his plan to spurn the club by signing a free-agent deal with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Golden State countered by signing swingman Corey Maggette away from the Clippers and grabbing forward Ronny Turiaf from the Lakers with an offer sheet. Meanwhile, forwards Mickael Pietrus (Orlando) and Matt Barnes (Phoenix) went elsewhere.

Although the Warriors elected not to use a \$10 million trade exception, they also matched the Clippers' offer sheet for guard Kelenna Azubuike and acquired backup point guard Marcus Williams in a trade with New Jersey.

Biedrins, Ellis and Maggette should join veterans Stephen Jackson and Al Harrington in the starting lineup for coach Don Nelson, whose club led

the NBA in scoring last year. Harrington also has quietly explored trade possibilities after falling out of Nelson's rotation at times last year.

### **NBA BRIEFS**

#### **Veteran swingman Ricky Davis signs with Clippers**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The Clippers continued their offseason makeover Monday, signing veteran swingman Ricky Davis to a multiyear contract. Terms were not announced. Davis, an unrestricted free agent who turns 29 in September, averaged 13.8 points, 4.3 rebounds and 3.4 assists while playing in all 82 games for the Miami Heat last season. He shot 43.3 percent from the floor, 40.5 percent on 3-pointers and 78.7 percent from the foul line. "With his ability to score and shoot from the outside, it's really going to open up the floor for us, particularly our low-post players," Los Angeles general manager Elgin Baylor said. "He can score from outside, he can score from inside. He's versatile; he can play (shooting guard), he can play (small forward). 'He's been terrific coming off the bench, instant offense. That's up to the coach (Mike Dunleavy) to decide, how he's going to use him. Most likely, he'll come off the bench. That's been his strength.'" The 6-foot-7 Davis has averaged 14.3 points, 3.7 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 31.1 minutes in his career. He was chosen with the 21st overall pick of the 1998 draft by the Charlotte Hornets after one year at Iowa, where he averaged 15.0 points, 4.8 rebounds and 2.4 assists.

#### **Nuggets get Balkman from Knicks for Green, Jones**

**DENVER (AP)**—The Denver Nuggets have acquired forward Renaldo Balkman from the New York Knicks in exchange for guard Taurean Green, forward Bobby Jones and a second-round draft pick in 2010. The Nuggets also get cash in the deal, announced Monday by Mark Warkentien, Denver's vice president of basketball operations. The 6-foot-8 Balkman averaged 3.4 points and 3.3 rebounds in 65 games for the Knicks last season. He has averaged 4.2 points and 3.8 rebounds in two seasons with the Knicks, shooting .499 from the field. Green averaged 1.1 points in nine appearances with Denver last season. Jones averaged 3.4 points and 1.5 rebounds in two stints with the Nuggets during the 2007-08 season.

## *Pistons agree to deal with former No. 1 pick Brown*

**DETROIT (AP)**—Kwame Brown and the Detroit Pistons agreed to terms on a deal potentially worth \$8 million over two seasons, team president of basketball operations Joe Dumars told The Associated Press on Monday night.

Brown, the No. 1 pick overall in 2001, will make \$4 million next season. If Brown exercises an option for the 2009-10 season, he will play in Detroit for another \$4 million. If Brown doesn't take the option, he becomes a free agent again next summer and the Pistons won't owe him anything.

He has averaged just 7.5 points and 5.7 rebounds over his career

that started with the Washington Wizards and continued with the Los Angeles Lakers and Memphis Grizzlies.

The 6-foot-11, 270-pound center had the best season of his NBA career with the Wizards four years ago, when he averaged 10.9 points and 7.4 rebounds.

Brown is coming off perhaps his biggest disappointment, scoring just 4.8 points a game—his lowest average since his rookie year—with the Lakers and Grizzlies. Brown was traded to Memphis in February as part of the Pau Gasol deal.

The Pistons won't need

Brown to live up to the billing of being the top pick in the draft, but they will count on him to add depth at center and power forward.

Detroit won the 2004 NBA title and has advanced to six straight Eastern Conference finals thanks to players other teams didn't want such as Chauncey Billups, Richard Hamilton, Rasheed Wallace, Tayshaun Prince and Antonio McDyess.

It will be quite a feat if Brown joins the list.

Brown's relatively inexpensive and short-term deal seems to be a low-risk gamble worth taking for a team that traded



# Kings sweep Barako with OT victory

**MANILA, Philippines**—Facing what was supposed to be a dominated foe in a match that took a Game 7 atmosphere, Barangay Ginebra willed itself to come back from the brink of defeat and sweeten its sweep of Red Bull.

The Gin Kings rallied from six points down in the final 2:37 of regulation before making their first four shots in overtime to finally snuff the fight out of the Barako, 101-97, and reach the Smart PBA Fiesta Cup title series before

close to 12,000 screaming souls at the Big Dome.

Mark Caguioa tossed in 33 markers and Chris Alexander had 13 points, 19 rebounds and a PBA career-high seven blocks in the epic contest Red Bull refused to surrender without a fight.

In fact, the Barako worked so hard to avert being the footnote in a record their coach last pulled off 16 years ago, leading 90-84 after a Cyrus Baguio basket with 2:37 left in regulation.

But the Kings came up with

their vaunted finishing kick that has earned them to their adoring throng to forge the extra five minutes at 90-all.

“The outcome of the series (4-0) did not mean that it was easy for us,” coach Jong Uichico, who will see remaining as Magnolia forged a 104-102 victory over Air21 to level their semifinal series at two games each.

Jay-Jay Helterbrand failed to give the Kings the win outright when he flubbed a running jumper inside the keyhole at the buzzer. But Junthy Valenzu-

ela, Rafi Reavis, Caguioa and Paul Artadi combined to lift the Kings ahead to stay, 99-94 with 2:49 to play.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**Barangay Ginebra 101**—Caguioa 33, Alexander 13, Salvacion 13, Artadi 10, Helterbrand 10, Valenzuela 9, Reavis 9, Pacana 4, Mamaril 0, Menk 0.

**Red Bull 97** – Baguio 26, Parada 24, Cruz 11, Najorda

8, Hrabak 7, Duncil 5, Alvarez 5, Robinson 5, Ybañez 3, Pennisi 3.

**Quarters:** 29-21, 48-47, 70-73, 90-90, OT 101-97

**Second Game**

**Magnolia 104** – McCaskill 19, Tugade 19, Ildefonso 19, Pingris 10, Pena 10, Racela 7, Seigle 7, Hontiveros 6, Calaguio 3, Villanueva 2, Cortez 2.

**Air21 102** – David 32, Thomas 20, Santos 15, Arboleda 10, De Ocampo 8, Se 6, Kramer 4, Canaleta 3, Cruz 2, Billones 2, Intal 0, Sotto 0.

**Quarters:** 26-all, 49-57, 78-80, 104-102. **(PDI)**

## Best player trophy tossup between Ginebra buddies

**MANILA, Philippines**—The Ginebra backcourt tandem of Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand have found themselves locked in a tight battle for the Best Player of the Conference (BPC) award having co-starred in an amazing 12-game romp that led to the Kings’ early entry into the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference Finals.

It’s now a toss-up between the Ginebra buddies, unless Air21 also makes the Finals and Arwind Santos comes through with monster performances.

Already leading the BPC race after the elimination round, Caguioa and Helterbrand gained more ground on everybody as they even performed better in the playoffs, leading Ginebra to a two-game

sweep of Sta. Lucia Realty in the quarterfinals and a four-game shutout of Red Bull in the semifinals.

During their 12-game run, Caguioa and Helterbrand took turns getting the Accel-Smart Player of the Week honors. Caguioa was the winner of the award in the week just past, highlighting his showing in the period with a 33-point explosion Sunday when Ginebra completed its sweep of Red Bull with a 101-97 overtime victory.

Caguioa, the 2006 Philippine Cup Best Player, is the league leading local scorer averaging 22.8 points a game while Helterbrand, the 2006 Philippine Cup Finals MVP, leads everybody in assists with 6.2 feeds per game on top of his 18.6

points a night.

Sta. Lucia’s Kelly Williams and Alaska’s Willie Miller were in the Magic Five after the elimination round. But they have kissed their BPC bid goodbye on the early exit of their teams in the season-ending tourney.

Santos was also in the Magic Five after the elims. It’s uncertain, though, whether he would keep his spot with his performance dipping in the playoffs.

Gary David, now fully recovered from an ACL injury, has taken over as Air21’s top gun, averaging 20.9 points in the playoffs against Santos’ 11.2-point norm.

The question is whether David would make the Magic Five in time for the cut-off date in the stats race after placing

only 18th in the elims.

Ranidel de Ocampo and Wynne Arboleda are the other Air21 players in the BPC race, standing at No. 13 and No. 14, respectively, before the playoffs.

Danny Seigle was Magnolia’s strongest bet after the elims but his showing has been ruined by injuries in the playoffs.

Meanwhile, Ginebra’s Chris Alexander and Air21’s Steven Thomas are the leading candidates for the Best Import honors.

Red Bull’s Adam Parada showed the way early on until the arrival of other behemoths including Alexander, the league leading rebounder and shot-blocker. **(www.pba.com.ph)**

## PTI

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Ruszala to help the hosts to an 11-point lead, 52-41, at the half-time break.

Team mainstays Poland Yamada and Edsel Mendoza then took over in the third as the two big men scored six points apiece as PTI increased its advantage to 15 points, 76-61, heading into the fourth and final quarter.

Fitial then put on the finishing touches to PTI’s victory against BoG, as the Big Hit muscled his way inside for 10 fourth quarter points to cap the team’s 18-point win.

Fitial led PTI in its sixth win in as many games with 23 points, while Sanciangco, Mendoza, center Bruce Berline, and Yamada scored 10 or more points in the victory.

James Villacrusis scored a game-high 29 points in the setback with Jason Taiscan adding

17. Center Charlie Peters and forward Randy Pelisamen also chipped in 13 apiece. It was the fourth loss in 10 games for BoG.

In the second game, Department of Corrections kept pace with the league leaders by thumping Legislature 91-73.

DoC led from the get-go and was paced by the 17 points of power forward Jeff Quitugua and guard Luis Iguel.

Joel Punzalan had 17 points for the team from Capital Hill, while the father-and-son combo of Ray and Ernest Duenas each fired 12 points.

The win was the fifth in seven games for DoC, while the loss dropped Legislature to 4-6 in the team standings.

On Friday, PTI drubbed Commonwealth Ports Authority, 104-55, in the opener for its fifth win.

NMC, meanwhile, improved to 6-1 after a 99-89 win over Department of Public Works

in the second game. CPA and DPW now sport 0-6 and 2-5 records, respectively.

**Friday First Game**

**NMC 99** – Wallace 32, Tumauquip 19, Aguon 17, Villagomez 11, Buniag 6, Diaz 4, Chris 4, Ed 2.

**DPW 89** – Masga 19, Tomokane 16, E. Pangelinan 14, Guerrero 13, J. Pangelinan 13, Takai 4, Salazar 4, Igelon 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-25, 45-43, 63-63, 99-89.

**Referees:** Jesse Pabula and Noel Delos Santos.

**Second Game**

**PTI 104** – Yamada 24, Berline 23, Mendoza 21, Esdrelon 14, Fernandez 12, Ruszala 6, Watanabe 4.

**CPA 55** – Torres 17, Sablan 12, Duenas 12, Richard 7, Frances 7.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-20, 47-32, 76-42, 104-55.

**Referees:** Arnold Mesa and

Gilbert Espinosa.

**Monday First Game**

**PTI 105** – Fitial 23, Sanciangco 17, Mendoza 14, Berline 12, Yamada 10, Esdrelon 9, Fernandez 8, Ruszala 7, Soledad 3.

**BoG 87** – Villacrusis 29, Taisacan 17, Peter 13, Pelisamen 13, G. Palacios 10, D. Palacios 2, Imperial 2, Lee 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-23, 52-41, 76-61, 105-87.

**Referees:** Gilbert Espinosa and Eric Artillaga.

**Second Game**

**DoC 91** – Quitugua 17, Iguel 17, Iramk 16, Mendez 10, Castro 8, Itibus 5, Kilion 2, Kwon 2.

**Legislature 73** – Punzalan 17, Apatang 15, R. Duenas 12, E. Duenas 12, Diaz 8, Guinto 4, Cabrera 3, Besong 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 27-14, 54-32, 75-57, 91-73.

**Referees:** Dado Vistal and Manny Sitchon.

## ROCK STEADY

From Page 28

by driving in Eric Lizama and Omar to pad the pennant champion’s lead to 8-3. Dane Lizama then made it 9-3 moments later when he scored on a D9er error.

Rock Steady ace John Mafnas gave D9ers’ hitters some fits in the top of the seventh as the

team maintained its six-run advantage against the squad from San Roque.

Dane Lizama, meanwhile, continued his hot streak in the bottom of the seventh as he recorded two more RBIs when his single scored Timo Mafnas and Eric Lizama to hike Rock Steady’s advantage to 11-3.

D9ers answered meekly in the eighth when Greg Camacho tri-

pled off John Mafnas and Leroy Dela Cruz brought him home to peg the score at 11-4.

That was all she wrote for D9ers though as John Mafnas and his reliever Jonathan Camacho shut them down the rest of the way. John Mafnas took the win after pitching seven innings.

Dane Lizama led Rock Steady from the batter’s box,

going 3-for-5 along with four RBIs and two runs.

Camacho was the lone bright spot for the D9ers, as the big slugger was a homerun short of hitting for the cycle. He went 3-for-4 with a single, a double, and a triple.

Starting pitcher Jonathan Tenorio took the loss for D9ers, which look to rebound from their loss on Game 2 set for today.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
San Francisco		44	61	.419
San Diego		42	65	.393
Yesterdays Games				
Pittsburgh 8, Colorado 4				
Florida 7, N.Y. Mets 3				
St. Louis 12, Atlanta 3				
Chicago Cubs 6, Milwaukee 4				
Houston 5, Cincinnati 4				
San Diego 8, Arizona 5				
San Francisco 7, L.A. Dodgers 6				
L.A. Angels 7, Boston 5				
Baltimore 13, N.Y. Yankees 4				
Cleveland 5, Detroit 0				
Toronto 3, Tampa Bay 1				
Seattle 7, Texas 5				
Minnesota 7, Chicago White Sox 0				
Kansas City 4, Oakland 2				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
LOCAL SCORES				
Govt Basketball Standings				
PTI	6	0		
NMC	6	1		
DOC	5	2		
BOG	6	4		
Autonomous	4	2		
DCCA	4	2		
Tinian	3	5		
Aguaat	2	4		
DPW	2	5		
Legislature	4	6		
DPS	0	5		
CPA	0	6		
NMIFA Standings				
Record	Goal Difference	Points		
Gil Fever	4-1-1	+4	13	
Captain Morgans	3-1-2	+3	11	
Devil's Advocates	3-3	-1	9	
GMF	2-2-2	-2	8	
Deaniacs	2-4	-2	6	
Sureshanks	1-4-1	-2	4	



# Devil's Advocates upset Gil Fever

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The 2008 Northern Mariana Islands

Football Association Co-ed Soccer Summer League concluded its regular season last week but not before erstwhile undefeated Gil Fever fell to Devil's Advocates.

Gil Fever's 3-4 loss to Devil's Advocates last Thursday at the CPA Airport Field marred what previously was an unblemished record.

Jetsada Phonsutjit found the back of the net three times for Devil's Advocates, ending his drought of scoreless games that stretched back to his first game of the season when he scored a couple.

Gil Fever managed to score three goals to tie the match, but Patty Coleman put Devil's Advocates ahead with a goal. It was Coleman's second score of the season to tie her with Lindsay Sosovec in the race for the women's Golden Boot award.

The loss dropped Gil Fever to a win-loss-draw record of 4-1-1, while the win improved Devil's Advocates' mark to 3-3-1.

In other Week 6 results, Deaniacs defeated Sureshanks, 2-1, while GMF and Captain Morgan's finished their game in a 2-2 tie.

Masa Otsuka scored twice for the Deaniacs, while Brenda



Jetsada Phonsutjit, left, and Patty Coleman led Devil's Advocates in their 4-3 upset against previously undefeated Gil Fever last Thursday in the final regular season game of the 2008 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Co-ed Soccer Summer League at the CPA Airport Field.

Shultz scored for Sureshanks. Joe "Miller Time" Miller, meanwhile, scored twice for GMF, while Tiger Lee and Bishow scored for Captain Morgan's in the scoreless draw.

Deaniacs upped its record to 2-4-2 with the victory against Sureshanks, which ended the regular season at the cellar with

a 1-4-1 mark.

Captain Morgan's finished runner-up to Gil Fever in the team standings with a 3-1-2 win-loss-draw record, while GMF came away with a 2-2-2 mark at the end of the regular season.

NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League Week 5 results, meanwhile, saw Deaniacs beat Devil's



MARK RABAGO

Advocates, 3-1, last July 17.

July 16's game pitting Gil Fever against Captain Morgan's, meanwhile, resulted in a 3-3 tie.

GMF, for its part, defeated Sureshanks, 2-1, in the July 15 game that saw Miller, the starting forward for the CNMI Men's National Team, make quite a splash in his co-ed league debut.

While things were looking up for the opposing Sureshanks during the first half, Miller scored two goals in the second half to lead GMF to victory.

The play of the game in the GMF-Sureshanks game came when Sami Birmingham-Babauta scored a goal after GMF keeper and captain Greg Borja

bobbled an easy ball.

Sami BB, as she is affectionately known by her fans, is the youngest player to ever score in an NMIFA league game.

Jetsada Phonsutjit, meanwhile, currently leads the race for the Golden Boot award for men with five, followed by Miller and Chris Nelson with four apiece.

Tiger Lee, Masa Otsuka, and Jason Schroeder have three goals each, while Rob Jordan and Jeff Cloud have two each.

Zach Posner, Tyce Mister, Steve McKagan, Solemon Gazi, Peter Houk, Peter Bosner, Nong Theotherthaiguy, Michael Deery, Jimmy Pua, Jerish Angeles, Daniel Macario, Dan Westfall, Bishow, Angelo Villagomez, and Allen Mijares all found the back of the net once.

While Coleman and Sosovec have scored two goals apiece to lead the women's division, Birmingham-Babauta, Ratree Thethaigirl, Madison Smith, and Brenda Schultz have a goal to their names each.

The Coed Summer League is a non-competitive league. While results and goals are tallied, the number one rule of this league is to have fun.

NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League coordinator Angelo Villagomez said the league lasts for eight weeks, with games played on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Each team will play one game per week.

Games will start at 5:15pm on game days and will consist of two 35-minute halves with five-minute halftimes.

For more information about the 2008 NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League, contact co-ed league commissioner Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462.

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The 2008 SML Fall League is just around the corner and league coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is asking teams interested in taking part in the 25-and-under competition to attend its first organizational meeting early next week.

Rogolifoi, who is a NMASA Hall of Famer, said the SML Fall League's first organizational meeting will be held this

## SML Fall meeting this Monday

coming Monday, Aug. 4, 12pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

He said details such as kick-off date, ground rules, uniforms, and other matters will be the agenda during the meeting.

Rogolifoi earlier said the SML Fall League is tentatively scheduled to open in late August or early September of this year.

A developmental program, the league will again play host to players ages 25 and under. This year marks the ninth sea-

son the program has been in existence since it was first inaugurated in 1999.

As in previous years, the SML requires players to submit proof of eligibility documents such as birth certificates, passports, and driver's license. In addition, copies of insurance policy or card must accompany these documents.

Rogolifoi said this is important because it ensures players are fully covered by their individual health and life insurance in case

of injury during league play.

Returning players are not required to provide eligibility documents since they are on record files. However, all players include returnees, must have some type of insurance coverage in order to play. Players without insurance coverage are asked to contact the SML to make arrangements.

The league's entry fee, in the amount of \$800, should be made payable to Saipan Major

League and is due on Aug. 22, 2008. A 25-man team roster is due prior to opening of the league. Teams are encouraged to start securing sponsors that would provide for the teams' necessities such as the entry fee and uniforms.

Waiver forms will be provided to all teams on Monday. Managers and coaches and other interested teams are asked to bring all pertinent documents to the aforementioned meeting.

For more information about the 2008 SML Fall League, contact league Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

## Billiards revival at USS Peleliu Club

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Saipan's most popular billiards venue, USS Peleliu Club, is hoping to revive the sport when it hosts a slew of pool competitions beginning this week.

USSP owner, Ken Phillips, said the Garapan watering hole and sports bar will be organizing three different tournaments every week.

"Monday is for the 8-ball 'Pool Challenge,' with a \$1 per game charge for challengers. Winners pocket the money and



MARK RABAGO

USS Peleliu Club owner Ken Phillips is inviting the island's cue artists to take part in the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday pool competitions of the Garapan watering hole and sports bar.

hold the table. This competition can be played with as few as five entrants," he said.

Phillips, meanwhile, said, Tuesday's competition features a single-elimination 9-ball tournament with a \$5 entry fee.

"The first competitor to win three games advances in the bracket. 'A' players as determined by management, will have to win four games to advance," he said.

Last but not the least, Wednesday is reserved for the always in-demand double elimination 8-ball tournament.

"Players have at least two chances to advance for only \$5," said Phillips, adding that the start time for all three weekly pool tournaments is at

8pm with happy hour prices for both players and spectators until 2pm.

In addition to the three pool tournaments, USSP has also changed its operating hours. "We're now opening at 8pm, with live music from 9pm to 2am Tuesday through Sunday," said Phillips.

He added that USSP is also looking for head-to-head competition with other establishments and bar owners can call him anytime after 7:30pm to discuss days, number of players, and other details.

For more information about USSP's Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday pool tournaments, contact Ken or Rose Phillips at 233-1984.

## Sufa Golf Tournament on Aug. 26



The Sufa Softball Association will be holding a golf fundraiser this coming Aug. 26 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville.

The organization's vice president Joe Salas said the event, dubbed simply as the Sufa Golf Tournament, is Sufa Softball Association's last and final fundraising before the team departs to the 4th Annual Labor Day Softball Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sufa Golf Tournament will have a registration time of between 10:30am and 11:45am with a shotgun start of 12pm. Tournament fee is \$100.

Salas said the proceeds from the fundraiser will once again help defray the cost of airfare, hotel, and other miscellaneous expenses of the team while they compete in Nevada. *(Mark Rabago)*





## Devil's Advocates upset Gil Fever

The 2008 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Co-ed Soccer Summer League concluded its regular season

last week but not before erstwhile undefeated Gil Fever fell to Devil's Advocates.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Angels win sixth straight over Red Sox, 7-5

Casey Kotchman and Torii Hunter homered in a six-run sixth inning and the Los Angeles Angels improved baseball's best record with a 7-5 win over Daisuke Matsuzaka and the Boston Red Sox.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# SSC bids coach Stewart goodbye

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Swim Club head coach Michael Stewart bids the CNMI goodbye today after making the islands his home the past four years.

During his stint at the helm of SSC, Stewart continued the tradition of excellence SSC founders Bill and Jean Sakovich started as well as introduced his own programs to the Commonwealth's oldest swim club.

Before heading to his new coaching job in Taos, New Mexico, SSC swimmers and their parents gave Stewart a parting gift made up of a DVD, which contained a collection of pictures of the many events he and his swimmers took part in since 2004 as well as a heart-warming tribute.

"Thank you for all that you have done for us. For teaching us not only to swim, but to strive for our best. For teaching us to work hard, but also to have fun. For challenging us with seeming impossibilities and rejoicing with us when we succeed," a part of the tribute read.

The tribute went on to say that under Stewart's guidance SSC swimmers were able to experience unforgettable ocean swims (around tanks and buoys,



Saipan Swim Club coach Michael Stewart, seen here talking poolside with Sarah Johnson, departs the CNMI today after making the islands his home the past four years.

DAN KIMBALL

Escape from Managaha, Bandelin Over and Back, Eagle Ray 7K, and the All Day 20K), meets (on Saipan, in Guam and Palau, and in Australia—World Championships in Melbourne, Northern Territories Championship in Cairns, Arafura in Darwin—in China, Indianapolis and in Japan), practices (Mundane Monday, VO2sday, IM Wednesday, Goal Set Thursday, Fluffy Friday and Saturday), as well as waffle breakfasts, chicken BBQ, and coffee.

A number of the SSC swimmers also were able to extend their personal thanks to Stewart.

Grace Kimball, for instance, said she wouldn't have broken the age group record in the 100m freestyle if not for Stewart's unique coaching style.

"Thank you for helping me to learn to keep going even when I feel dead and for helping me when I get really nervous at meets. Especially thank you for helping me to improve and break a record. I think a lot of why I was able to do that is because of your coaching over the past few years," she said.

Selyna Leon Guerrero, meanwhile, said under Stewart's coaching SSC swimmers did not only learn lessons in swimming but also lessons in life as well.

"Coach Michael taught us all lessons in perseverance and determination that extend far beyond the pool," she said.

See SSC on Page 26

## Rock Steady beats D9ers with 5-run 6th

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Undefeated Rock Steady leaned on a five-run explosion in the sixth to deep-six the San Roque D9ers, 11-4, Monday night in the continuation of Game 1 of their best-of-three semifinals in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

After their Final Four matchup was postponed twice last week due to power outages at the Oleai Sports Center, the pennant champions transformed a nip-and-tuck 4-3 game after the first five innings by torturing D9ers pitcher Jonathan Tenoerio with three hits that led to five home-plate crossings in the bottom of the sixth.

The game-turning sequence started when Manny Sablan, Timo Mafinas, and Oliver Secharmidal singled and Eric Lizama was inadvertently hit by a pitch to load the bases.

Speedster Tyrone Omar then brought home Sablan and Secharmidal on a single to make it 6-3.

While Mafinas was out at second, Dane Lizama duplicated Omar's two RBI single

See ROCK STEADY on Page 26

# MMA has bright future in the CNMI



Ultimate Fighting Champion fighter Kimo Leopoldo, standing third from left, joins organizers behind this Saturday's Predator or Prey MMA event during a press conference at the Saipan World Resort yesterday.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

If things work out as planned, the CNMI may host mixed martial arts bouts that feature teams from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and



Gorilla Warfare Productions' Jeff Boyer

the mainland U.S. squaring off inside the ring in the near future, according to organizers behind this weekend's Predator or Prey.

said Predator or Prey is a mere prelude to bigger and better MMA events in the next few months and the team's California promoter, Bobby Gamboa, even said it's not too far-fetched to expect the Commonwealth to host a UFC-like championship years from now.

Boyer and Gamboa were joined in the press conference by UFC fighter Kimo Leopoldo, who is the first Hawaiian to ever see action in the UFC. He flew in to the CNMI to help promote Predator and Prey.

Leopoldo said MMA and the Pacific Islands are a natural fit because of the culture and the passion of the people here. He also said local fighters have what it takes to excel in the world of MMA but need only to improve on some of their techniques.

Mainland MMA fighter Johnny Mercurio also attended the press conference and said he was slated to fight "Kill" Bill Soares in one of the semi main events, but his opponent was unable to make the weight.

Boyer said they are still looking for a replacement for Soares and will finalize the fight card by Thursday. All the fighters will have an official weigh-in on Friday 1pm at Naked Fish.

Prior to that, Gamboa said the fighters will also undergo a drug test, a first for the

See MMA on Page 26

# PTI remains perfect in govt/biz caging

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Host PTI continued its domination of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League, scoring a 105-87 victory over fellow guest team Bank of Guam Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The game started even-even with both teams logging in 23

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ PTI swingman Ryan Sanciangco is fouled in this file photo from their Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League game against Autonomous last July 16 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



points in the opening quarter.

But PTI began to take control of the ballgame in the second with center Kevin Fitial combining with swingman Ryan Sanciangco and reserve Brad

See PTI on Page 26